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## Rabin to Ramon: We won't talk with Likud

SARAH HONIG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday promised Histadrut secretary-general-elect Haim Ramon that Labor would not enter into coalition negotiations with the Likud.

Rabin had asked for a meeting with Ramon to personally receive his assurance that he would give Labor the first coalition option.

Ramon urged Rabin to make sure the present Labor establishment in the Histadrut hands over power to him speedily and in an orderly fashion. Ramon fears that incumbent Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld plans to draw out the process till after the Histadrut convention at the end of August.

Ramon told Rabin he thinks two or three weeks are sufficient for the transfer process. He added that he realizes "Labor does not have much experience in handing over the Histadrut reins." Labor has been in power in the Histadrut since its founding 73 years ago.

Rabin reportedly did not commit himself to a date, though the Labor leadership is expected to exert pressure on Haberfeld.

Ramon said he would officially invite Labor to join his coalition only after the final election results are published. But even then, he warned, Labor should take nothing for granted as all options would be open. Ramon sent out directives to his local workers council representatives to conduct negotiations with all lists but to sign nothing without his approval.

The Rabin-Ramon meeting followed a day of mutual recriminations in which both the Ramon and Labor forces accused the other of seeking to strike a quick deal with the Likud on the sly.

Most of the attempts were on the local workers council level. But incumbent Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld, in a last-ditch attempt to stay in power, figured that Labor and the Likud might just barely form a slim majority.

But Rabin, concerned about his plans for reinforcing his Knesset coalition by a partnership with Ramon, Meretz, and Shas in the Histadrut, nipped the idea in the bud.

When they finally met, Ramon warned Rabin that since he now heads the largest Histadrut faction, it is up to him to invite the second-largest faction, Labor, to join a coalition. Rabin, understanding who holds the upper hand, promised there would be no deals with the Likud.

Ramon later made it clear that Labor would have to pay a price if it wants to be invited into his coalition. "Any coalition agreements would have to be based on the promises my list made the voters. We will go with whoever accepts our platform," he said.

This was seen as a clear hint that Labor would have to reverse itself on the national health insurance bill and on placing the Histadrut under the state comptroller's scrutiny.

There are also personal considerations. Ramon is known to oppose a scenario in which Haberfeld would be his deputy. Nor does he want present Histadrut treasurer Arthur Israelowitz to keep his job.

The expectation in Labor is that both will speedily be persuaded to step down. Na'amat Secretary-General-elect Ofra Friedman has already asked to replace Haberfeld as head of the Labor Histadrut faction, and Haberfeld has (Continued on Page 3)

## Maccabi TA win basketball title

Post Sports Staff

MACCABI Tel Aviv won the basketball's National League title last night when they beat city rivals Hapoel Tel Aviv 80-69 (halftime 40-27) for a three games to none sweep in the best-of-five playoff finals.

Maccabi lost the championship title last year after holding it for 23 consecutive seasons, losing to eventual champions Hapoel Galil Elyon in the semi-finals.

Both Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Tel Aviv will play in next year's European Club Championship.

Maccabi also beat Hapoel Tel Aviv in the State Cup final last month, their 28th cup win.

Full story, Page 12



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and opposition leader MK Benjamin Netanyahu address the Knesset during yesterday's debate on the Gaza/Jericho accord.



## Rabin: No reason for IDF to be in Gaza

DAN IZENBERG

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin departed yesterday from the prepared text he was monotonously reciting at the opening of a Knesset debate on the Israel-PLO agreement to declare: "I am proud this government is leaving Shati, Jabalya, Nuseirat, El-Bur-eij and Gaza City."

Nine hours later, the Knesset approved a government resolution summarizing the debate by a vote of 52-0 after Tzabi Hanegbi (Likud) gave the signal for the opposition to walk out of the chamber by declaring that "the government is not supported by a majority of the nation."

The government resolution said: "The Knesset records the statement of the government on the agreement regarding the Gaza Strip and Jericho dated May 4, 1994 as presented to the Knesset by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin."

Most of the debate was anti-climactic since the outcome was a foregone conclusion and the vote had no bearing on the agreement which went into effect as soon as it was signed in Cairo last week by Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Nevertheless, it warmed

up at the end during a polemical speech by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, when Speaker Shevah Weiss ejected Likud MKs Uzi Landau and Ron Nachman for interrupting the speaker. "I regard with great satisfaction the withdrawal of IDF soldiers from Gaza City, Jabalya, Shati, and the refugee camps of Nuseirat, El-Bur-eij,

of his speech. "There can be no agreement without compromises and concessions on both sides, if both sides are to observe it. Moreover, there is no agreement without some risks. So it is with the agreement before you."

Rabin proceeded to outline the details of the agreement, paying special attention to the subject of

since the signing of the Declaration of Principles.

"Prisoners from the 'rejectionist parties' will be asked to sign a declaration of support for the Declaration of Principles and abandonment of violence and terrorism. Up until now, more than 400 have not signed and have not been released. Prisoners belonging to organizations which have sworn their opposition to peace, such as the Hamas and Islamic Jihad, will not be released."

Rabin said claims that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled the territories in 1967 would now return were "incorrect, deceitful, and misleading." With regard to the Shalom Al Yisrael Synagogue in Jericho, he asserted that "freedom of religious worship in sites holy to Judaism has been guaranteed."

Likud Party Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu described the day of the signing of the agreement as "black Wednesday" and charged that the government was "quietly, under camouflage, and deceitfully trying to divert public opinion from the next stages which already have been agreed upon: Samaria (Continued on Page 2)

## Rabin updates Netanyahu on peace process

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday for the first time since the Oslo accords were signed. Officials in the Prime Minister's Office say the meeting was held at Netanyahu's request.

No details were divulged about the one-on-one meeting, except to say that Netanyahu received an update on the peace process, and that the two did not discuss the Histadrut results.

D.M.

Deir el-Balah, Khan Yunis and Rafiah," said Rabin in a moment of passion, over the din of opposition protests. "They have no reason to be there and no one has the right to endanger their lives in order to be there. No one."

"There is no such thing as an agreement everyone is happy with," Rabin said at the beginning

of the Palestinian prisoner release.

"To establish a positive climate and the basis for mutual confidence, Israel agreed to release and transfer to the Palestinian authority 5,000 detainees and prisoners," said Rabin. "They will be those who did not physically harm Israelis. They will not include those arrested for terrorist attacks

## Last Meshulam supporters give themselves up

RAINE MARCUS

THE remaining 36 supporters of Rabbi Uzi Meshulam surrendered themselves to police at dawn yesterday, ending a tense 30-hour standoff.

Nearly 1,000 police officers launched a massive raid on Tuesday, during which 19-year-old soldier Shlomo Assoulin was shot dead by a sharpshooter when he fired tracer bullets at police and a helicopter. Assoulin's father also played a part in the negotiations. Assoulin was buried yesterday.

The remaining supporters were divided into two camps: the moderates and the extremists, the latter including Meshulam's wife Elisheva. Without a leader, the moderate elements began to crack, said a police officer.

Members of the police negotiating team, headed by a psychologist, reached an agreement with the followers, thus canceling two plans early yesterday to storm the house.

After the supporters surrendered, police seized a cache of weapons in the house, including eight Uzi submachine guns, three M-16 rifles, seven pistols, bombs, firebombs, piles of ammunition and IDF-issue grenades.

Meshulam and scores of supporters were remanded by Petah Tikva Magistrates Court yesterday. Forty-one additional supporters are expected to appear in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court for a remand hearing this morning. (Story, Page 14)

Meshulam's wife and children, together with about five other people who were not arrested, will continue to live in the Yehud house, where Meshulam and some 100 armed supporters were holed up over the past two months.

Meshulam's move was to protest what he called the "theft and sale of 4,500 Yemenite children" 40 years ago.

Some officers said that newly appointed Inspector-General



Members of the Police Anti-Terror Unit enter Uzi Meshulam's house in Yehud to search the premises after his supporters surrendered to police.

(Gideon Markowitz/PPA)

Assaf Hefetz should not have played the trick which led to Meshulam's arrest, but that other lower ranking officers should have "isolated the leader."

Meshulam, armed with two pistols and guarded by eight armed supporters, was arrested at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday when he went to meet Hefetz at the Avia Hotel in Yehud.

"In the future, any group wishing to negotiate with the Inspector-General will not trust him," said one officer.

But over the past few weeks, Hefetz gained Meshulam's trust and talked to him on the phone daily, to give him the illusion that they were friends. Hefetz was

even criticized in the press for those conversations.

Just before the meeting, Hefetz faxed Meshulam an unsigned and ambiguous document stating that "the Inspector-General guarantees Meshulam's safety from the minute he leaves his house until the meeting and until his return home."

"Meshulam was prepared for the possibility of his arrest," said Hefetz during a press conference yesterday, together with Tel Aviv police chief Cmdr. Gabi Last and other senior officers in charge of the operation.

"The success of the operation was a combination of

negotiations and a demonstration of force to show our ability to end the siege," said Hefetz.

After Assoulin was killed, police froze the situation to prevent further bloodshed and complications, said Hefetz.

Repeated requests to Meshulam to convince his remaining followers to surrender quietly came to nothing, said Hefetz.

"It was difficult dealing with Jews who behaved like terrorists but who are not terrorists," said Hefetz. "We had to act against them. But first we did everything possible to exhaust negotiations."

## Gaza/Jericho pullout may be finished by next Friday

Cabinet approves accord; more police enter areas

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

THE cabinet unanimously approved the Gaza/Jericho implementation agreement yesterday, with Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahak telling the ministers the IDF could complete its pullout from Gaza and Jericho by the end of next week.

"Amnon [Shahak] said the withdrawal could be complete by next Friday," one minister said after the meeting.

"By Friday... authority for the southern part of the Gaza Strip and all of Jericho will be transferred to the Palestinians. By next Wednesday, authority will be transferred for all of the Gaza Strip." Environment Minister Yossi Sarid subsequently told reporters.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office have not ruled out complete withdrawal by then, but one hesitated to add, "There can always be delays."

About 140 Palestinian Police entered the Gaza Strip last night, bringing the total number there to nearly 300. Another 140 are housed in the old civil administration building in Deir el-Balah.

The new contingent is to be housed close to the Muassara area of Gush Katif and the "Camps" police station near Deir el-Balah in the central region, the IDF Spokesman's office said.

Twenty police officers are to cross the Allenby Bridge this morning and 300 more will cross later in the day and make their way to Gaza, civil administration spokeswoman Elise Shazar said last night.

However, she added, all plans could be changed at the last minute.

AP reported that Brig. Hajj Ismail, commander-designate of Jericho, told reporters on the Jordanian side of the Allenby Bridge that "a platoon of my forces will be allowed into Jericho at an early hour Thursday morning." A platoon consist of 50 men.

King Hussein, a certified pilot, flew his army helicopter to the dusty camp, to salute the policemen before they crossed the bridge.

"We hope that your entry to Jericho will mark the beginning of the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil," said Hussein, wearing khaki fatigues and a black beret.

He was repeatedly interrupted by cheers, with the policemen chanting: "Our blood and soul we sacrifice for you, Hussein."

The IDF said a large group was more likely to cross tomorrow than today.

Angered that police did not arrive yesterday, as they had expected, Jericho youths shouted at IDF soldiers and threw stones. Troops responded with tear gas and stun grenades.

Motti Amir, a reporter for Israel Radio, was dragged by three reserve officers after he and other reporters were ordered out of the area. Amir said he was dragged along the ground by his shirt collar for 20 meters.

"I wasn't even outside. I'd been standing in a shop," Amir said. "I have covered the intifada since 1987, and nothing like this ever happened to me."

A French reporter, Harve Deguyne, was wounded by a rubber bullet. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ron Biran appointed (Continued on Page 2)

## Burgeoning visa fraud leads to probe at US Embassy

STEVE RODAN

STATE Department investigators are combing the US Embassy in Tel Aviv in a massive month-long inspection to determine whether American consular officers have tightened controls in the face of rising incidents of visa fraud.

The investigators will spend until the end of the month questioning employees, monitoring the busy visa section, and following up numerous complaints that have reached Washington. The complaints from former and current embassy employees regard poor security, an abundance of fraudulent visa rings, suspicious embassy employees, and a purge of staffers who had been demanding a clean sweep.

Embassy officials acknowledge

that visa fraud has increased as thousands of Israelis, particularly immigrants from the former Soviet Union, are seeking entry to the US. In fiscal 1993, the embassy received 94,000 applications, and for the first half of this year, the number of applicants has risen by 16 percent.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that since late December, the embassy has summoned police three times to arrest visa applicants using fraudulent documents. The arrests led to the capture of a ring which supplied fraudulent letters of employment to visa applicants for up to NIS 800.

The full story of the Post's investigation will appear in tomorrow's magazine.

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הכזא מן אלאל



# Deir el-Balah becomes first Gazan town 'free' of IDF

JON IMMANUEL

DEIR el-Balah became the first town in Gaza to say good-bye to Israeli rule yesterday, as hundreds of merry-makers welcomed 140 Palestinian police by occupying the old civil administration building that is now local police headquarters.

"I can't believe it. It's the first time I don't see an Israeli soldier here my entire life," said Abed Fatah Abdelal, a 20-year-old student, surveying the town from the building's rooftop.

Groups opposed to the peace process, such as Hamas and the Popular Front, issued leaflets welcoming the contingent of Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers, a move which may help win their members some places in the new force.

Many of the officers who arrived before dawn appeared to be in their late 40s or 50s, and looked more like civil defense volunteers than professional policemen. They made no effort to keep order for several hours.

"We have not yet started working yet," said a major. "Today I am a guest. After all the forces

arrive we will be in implementing the law." He said that in Egypt, where he had lived since leaving Gaza during the 1967 Six Day War, he was an electrician at the telephone exchange in Cairo. He trained with the PLA one day a month, he said.

But the newly arrived policemen had their first test when several local youths in jeans and sneakers celebrated by mounting cars and firing Israeli weapons in the air.

The noise alarmed the police who decided that law and order could not wait until the festivities died down. A civilian with a bull-horn and siren ordered all other civilians out of the new police compound. "Move out quickly," he ordered, as the phalanx of olive-green uniformed troops pushed with raised bayonets against the crowd inside the area.

Mohammed Hamad, one of the youths responsible for the shooting, was identified as a Fatah Hawk.

Later, another youth who had

been firing an Uzi pistol from a car, was on the roof of the building still armed, fraternizing with the police. "I am a policeman," he said, when asked why he was still there.

Gen. Nasser Yusef, the police commander, said at a press conference in Gaza City yesterday that the police would confiscate all weapons from civilians. "They had the right to carry weapons under occupation. But now we will work in an organized manner for control," he said of the armed militants.

He said the Palestinian Police would begin to implement its full authority next Wednesday. He said he expected the force to incorporate different political factions.

An-Nahar, the pro-Jordanian daily, reported more than six Palestinians killed by other Palestinians in the past week alone, due to the easy access to weapons. This figure is especially high since Hamas last month declared a moratorium on killing alleged collaborators until May 22 in an effort to improve relations with Fatah.



Palestinians wave a PLO flag yesterday from a Deir el-Balah watch tower vacated by the IDF on Tuesday. (AP)

## Arafat finalizing Palestinian council list; Freij among those agreeing to join

JON IMMANUEL and news agencies

PLO leader Yasser Arafat hopes to have the 24-member Palestinian council filled by tonight, and will send 1,000 government employees from Tunis to the self-rule area early next week.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, confirmed that Israel received a partial list of members for the Palestinian National Authority from the PLO, but declined to say how many or give any names.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said yesterday he accepted Arafat's offer to join after he received

a call from Arafat from South Africa, where he attended President Nelson Mandela's inauguration.

Freij said no particular position was specified, "but I prefer to take charge of tourism, in which I have more experience than others."

Freij's acceptance raised to three the number of Palestinians from the territories who agreed to join the council. Exact portfolios are still unclear. The two others who accepted are Dr. Zakaria al-Agha and lawyer Freih Abu Meidein, both former negotiators from the Gaza Strip.

Leading economist Samir Abdallah, head of economic planning in the Palestinian development authority, said he rejected Arafat's offer to join.

"I was not happy with the Cairo agreement so I cannot be in a

council that is going to implement such an agreement," Abdullah said.

Palestinians said the reluctance stemmed from two points: the authority would have little real power due to Israeli oversight, and most believe Arafat will make most decisions himself, anyway.

At least 10 people have demurred when asked to join the council. Palestinians said. They include senior figures like Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), who signed the initial self-rule agreement in Washington for the Palestinians, and Farouk Kaddoumi, long the PLO equivalent to a foreign minister.

Arafat had hoped to have the list completed by Sunday, but the refusals had made it impossible to meet that deadline, said the Pales-

tinian source. He said Arafat was planning to tip the balance of members slightly in favor of people in the territories, with 15 members from inside, rather than splitting it 50-50.

He said that the PLO wanted to build support for the agreement by making insiders feel they are at the heart of the changes.

Three members of the PLO's executive committee have also accepted the offer.

They are Yasser Amr, expected to run the education department, Jawid al-Gusseini who will run the financial department and Intisar al-Wazir, widow of the former number two PLO official Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), allegedly assassinated by Israel. She will run social welfare. All three departments, with tourism and health, will also run in the territories not given autonomy.

## Rabin intervenes to prevent power cut to Gaza

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Israel Electric Corp. (IEC) has decided not to cut off power to the Gaza Strip, after reaching an agreement yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the issue will be resolved by the civil administration.

IEC's meeting with Rabin was scheduled at the request of Energy Minister Moshe Shahal who is in charge of IEC.

At the end of the meeting, Shahal called upon the Palestinians to rapidly reach a commercial arrangement with IEC regarding the company's

continued supply of electricity.

On Sunday, IEC threatened to cut off power to the Gaza Strip yesterday unless it received the Palestinian Authority's guarantee to cover payment for Gaza's accumulated debt of NIS 37 million.

IEC managing director Moshe Katz will report to the board on the details of the arrangement reached with Rabin at the next board meeting which is scheduled for next week.

## High Court asked to order criminal probe of Arafat when he enters Gaza or Jericho

EVELYN GORDON

PLO leader Yasser Arafat should be investigated on criminal charges when he enters Gaza or Jericho, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

The petition was filed by Shimon Prachik, a Petah Tikva resident and lieutenant-colonel in the army reserves who heads a unit for evacuating the wounded, and Moshe Lorberbaum, who was injured in a 1978 bus bombing attributed to the PLO. Prachik was personally involved in caring for the victims of PLO attacks such as the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972.

The petitioners noted that Arafat, prima facie, appears to have been responsible for numerous terror attacks both in Israel and abroad, including murders, air-

plane hijackings, hostage-taking, letter bombings and hijacking ships on the high seas.

There is no doubt about Arafat's leadership of the PLO, which is still officially a terrorist organization, and which is "directly responsible for hundreds of terrorist actions throughout the world," they added, and this alone should be reason enough to bring charges against him.

The attorney-general's decision that there is "no public interest" in trying Arafat is unreasonable in the extreme, the petition continued, since the fact that Arafat has now decided to negotiate with Israel does not negate his past crimes.

Worse, this decision will en-

courage other terrorists, by letting them know they can gain immunity for their crimes merely by claiming to have laid aside their guns, the petition said.

In other news, the High Court yesterday rejected a petition asking that the government be forbidden to leave Gaza, in light of an alleged statement by the head of the General Security Service that an Israeli withdrawal would result in a bloodbath.

In a rare move, the court also charged the petitioner, attorney Sean Casper, with NIS 3,000 in court costs, saying that as a lawyer, Casper should have known better than to ask the court to intervene in a purely political matter, with no more proof of the GSS's real opinion than a newspaper report.

## No breakthrough expected from Christopher visit

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

NEITHER US nor Israeli officials here anticipate a major breakthrough in Israeli-Syrian talks when Secretary of State Warren Christopher makes a return visit to the region later this week.

Christopher is scheduled to arrive in Damascus over the weekend and then head on to Jerusalem at the close of Shavuot Monday night. He will not make any other stops on the trip before returning home Wednesday.

In preparation for the upcoming visit, Israeli ambassador Itamar Rabinovich has been meeting this week with the US peace

process team and "giving them our clarification to the Syrian basket" of responses to Prime Minister Rabin's recent peace package, according to an Israeli official here.

Both US and Israeli officials, however, have remained tight-lipped about the contents of both the Syrian response and the Israeli counter-response.

"We are not expecting much," the Israeli official said of the visit. "From the indications and signs,

the Syrians don't want to move too fast. Also, we don't want to because of the Cairo agreement" with the Palestinians.

Christopher's quick return to the region is occurring because "he felt there was a lot of progress substantively in the willingness of all sides to engage deeply in the issues," the US official said.

But because of Israel's desire to raise the political level of the negotiations, as well as Syria's wish for greater US involvement, Christopher's visit will be a "way of meeting both sides' needs [because] the level of engagement is at the highest level," he said.

## Hamas orders its prisoners not to sign non-violence pledges

DAMASCUS (AP) - Hamas said yesterday it had ordered its members imprisoned in Israel or the territories not to sign any pledges to refrain from terrorism.

"Our movement has made a decision that its prisoners will not respond to an Israeli condition that their release is linked to the signing of an undertaking not to carry out any terrorist acts but to support the capitulatory Gaza-Jericho accord," Hamas spokes-

man Ibrahim Ghosheh said in a statement released here.

"The release of detainees is a natural right that should not be restricted by the required undertaking," Ghosheh said, reiterating the group's policy that it will not abandon violence.

Ghosheh reiterated that policy, adding that Hamas would "continue resisting occupation until its defeat."

## Rabin, Likud clash over refugee clause in accord

DAN IZENBERG

DURING his speech to the Knesset yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin clashed fiercely with Likud MKs over a provision in the Gaza/Jericho Accord allowing for the return to the territories of Palestinians who fled after the 1967 Six Day War.

"Much ink [has been spilled], many words and headlines have been written in the past few days," about the "uprooted," said Rabin. "I have heard and read many incorrect - I would say even deceitful and misleading - statements. This clause does not determine how many people will be allowed to return to Judea, Samaria and Gaza and all the figures that have been released this week are pure fabrication."

Resorting to mild sarcasm, Rabin added: "I will reveal a secret to those MKs and private individuals who do not know: This paragraph was copied word for word from the Camp David Agreement, which was written and signed by the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin."

Rabin's statement was furiously challenged by two Likud MKs who were especially close to Begin - his son, Benny, and Elihu Ben-Elissar, the head of Begin's office during the negotiations with Egypt.

Begin acknowledged that the provision in the Gaza/Jericho Accord was identical to the one drafted by his father in 1978. But, he added, Menachem Begin had not bargained for the fact that a future government would agree to the possibility of arbitration to resolve differences between the two sides, as is included in the Gaza/Jericho Accord.

"It is true that Israel must give its consent to arbitration," Begin told The Jerusalem Post later. "But one cannot ignore the fact that this is a very important addition. In the so-called 'spirit of cooperation' between Israel and the Palestinians, there may be situations where we lose control."

## Rabin's statement on Hamas prisoners inaccurate - gov't officials

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin issued a misleading statement in his Knesset speech yesterday when he said that Israel has ruled out the release of Hamas prisoners, when in fact under certain conditions most of these prisoners could go free, government officials admit privately.

In his Knesset speech yesterday, Rabin said: "No Palestinian prisoners will be released who are affiliated with organizations who openly oppose peace, like Hamas and Islamic Jihad."

However, officials admit privately that approximately 3,000 Hamas prisoners currently held in Israel for non-lethal attacks against Israel can be freed if they renounce terrorism and support the Israel-PLO accord. "If the Hamas people are willing to agree to both conditions, they can go free," a senior official said

privately. While Hamas prisoners will be given the option, in practice, Israeli officials believe Hamas prisoners will not agree to sign such a statement, and therefore virtually all will remain in prison.

Imprisoned Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was offered such an opportunity, but turned it down.

Officials say the same option to sign a declaration will not be given to those Hamas or other estimated 450 prisoners who have been involved in killing Israelis.

When asked to comment, Environment Minister and peace negotiator Yossi Sarid would only say "the issue is not fully resolved. But we are heading towards allowing the Hamas people who don't have blood on their hands the opportunity to sign the declaration."

With deep sorrow, we mourn the loss of our dear friend

### LESLIE GOLD

Sadie and Joe Lebetkin  
Letty Winter and Family  
Eileen and Bernard Young  
and Family  
Rhoda and Eddie Lasky  
Shaul Fink  
Zena and Wolfe Doffman  
Milly and Mark Jackson



Wizo Herzliya Pituah members extend their sincere condolences to their dear member

AUDREY GOLD  
on the death of her husband

### LESLIE

With deep sorrow, we mourn with  
Simcha and the Family  
the death of

### STANLEY STERN

Founder Member and Benefactor  
of our Congregation

The Board and Members of  
CAESAREA Synagogue Congregation

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

### STANLEY EMANUEL STERN

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, May 12, 1994 (2 Sivan 5754), departing at 1:30 p.m. from the home of the deceased, 19 Hatamar St., Caesarea, for the Caesarea cemetery.

Mourned by:

His wife: Simcha Stern

Children:

Caroline Schwartz

Douglas Stern

Debrah Zimblar

Julie Stern

Shiva at the home of the deceased.

Brother:

Leonard Stern

Sister:

Gloria Kish



## Kaufman withdraws petition against Shohat's loan to Clalit

MK HAIM Kaufman (Likud) yesterday withdrew his petition to the High Court of Justice against the Treasury's NIS 180 million loan to Kupat Holim Clalit, after the government promised it would ask the Knesset finance committee's permission if it decided not to collect the loan.

The loan was arranged - without the finance committee's knowledge - by allowing Kupat Holim Clalit to withhold NIS 30m. a month of the money it owes government hospitals for each of the first six months of the year.

Kaufman had charged that this constituted a transfer of government money to the health fund, as well as a violation of the Kupat Holim Clalit recovery agreement, and for both these reasons needed the finance committee's approval. The Treasury responded that by law, it did not need finance committee approval for outlays that would be covered by future

income. This was the case with the Kupat Holim Clalit loan, it said, since the money can be recouped by withholding part of the "parallel tax" money the government owes the fund, which comes to some NIS 200m. a month.

Should Finance Minister Avraham Shohat decide instead to turn the loan into a grant, he will ask the finance committee's approval, the state said.

Justices Dov Levin, Yitzhak Zamir and Zvi Tal quickly made it clear that they accepted the state's argument, as well as Shohat's explanation that the loan was needed to keep the fund from collapsing.

"The government fulfilled its obligations to Kupat Holim, while Kupat Holim didn't fulfill its obligations to the government," Levin said. "But that doesn't mean the finance minis-

ter should strangle it."

However, the justices warned the Treasury against any attempt to let the matter slide.

"This is sort of another way to give [Kupat Holim] some kind of grant in the meantime," Levin said. Therefore, he asked the state to promise that it would either decide to collect the debt or ask the finance committee's permission not to do so by the end of the Knesset's summer session, rather than waiting until the end of the year and then presenting its request as an emergency.

In light of the court's position and the government's promise, Kaufman agreed to withdraw the petition, though retaining his right to re-petition should the promise not be fulfilled.

However, he said, he was less than satisfied with the results.

"The court ignored the fact that the finance minister circumvented the finance committee," he said.

## Labor to decide on principles for coalition with Ramon

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the Labor Party leadership are to decide by the end of the week on the principles of a coalition with Haim Ramon, so the party can at least partially retain its control of the Histadrut.

They are also to decide on the procedures of transferring the Histadrut reins to Ramon.

Speculation was rife in Labor concerning a new position for defeated Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld. It was also rumored that Haberfeld might tender his resignation within the next few days, rather than wait to be ousted by Ramon, who has stated that he is willing to form a coalition with Labor, but not with Haberfeld.

Rabin is to meet Haberfeld, together with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Labor Par-

ty Secretary-General Nissim Zvili, today or tomorrow to discuss the coalition options, convening the Histadrut convention, and the overlap period required for a smooth transfer of authority.

Haberfeld denied the reports that he and the leaders of Labor's Histadrut faction had discussed the possibility of forming a coalition with the Likud, as an alternative to the coalition with Ramon.

Discussions did take place in Haberfeld's bureau, but they focused, according to his spokesman Robby Steinberg, on the election results and coalition options with Ramon. They did not reach any decisions, simply be-

cause they must wait until the basic terms and direction is determined by the higher political level, Steinberg said.

Otherwise, it was business as usual in Histadrut headquarters. Haberfeld arrived after a sleepless night, and entered his office as if nothing had changed. Senior members of Labor's Histadrut faction tip-toed in and out, some to commiserate, others to discuss matters at hand.

The secretaries in Haberfeld's bureau both said they would not stay once Ramon and his people take over the fifth floor. Many of the secretaries and clerks in nearby offices expressed fear of what will happen to them when Ramon assumes office. They seemed to think they would all be fired, even those who had voted for Ramon.

## Clalit head skeptical about recovery

HAIM Ramon's version of the National Health Insurance Bill could not take effect before January 1995, according to Kupat Holim Clalit chairman Prof. Dan Michaeli.

"But even if it sails through the Knesset, recent wage increases for health workers mean that the 4.8 percent health tax set down by the bill will not cover expenses," he said.

Michaeli, on the morning after the momentous Histadrut elections, said the government will have either to grant the health system a temporary loan to cover the additional expenses, or raise the health tax beyond the proposed 4.8 percent of income, plus 0.8 percent for the "social and cultural needs" of members.

He admitted that he voted for Haim Haberfeld as secretary-general, but said "I have no reason to be unhappy today."

He said he supports Ramon's version of national health insurance and does not expect political dismissals inside Kupat Holim. "We are owned by the Histadrut and do what they tell us. Now that there are new leaders, we will do what they tell us," he said.

Most important, said Michaeli - a former director

of Tel Aviv's municipal hospital system - is to have a new health minister appointed. He does not think that Ramon will be able to dictate to the government who will succeed him in the post. "That is the sole prerogative of the prime minister."

But Michaeli does think it imperative that a person "who knows the material" is appointed.

Asked whether Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin could have avoided all the trouble by announcing a Histadrut-member referendum on the health bill after Haberfeld pushed a change that forced Ramon out of the government through the labor federation convention, Michaeli said he prefers not to speculate on political issues. He also declined to comment on Ramon's demands, as health minister, to separate Kupat Holim membership from membership in the Histadrut.

Michaeli said that people have stopped leaving Kupat Holim. "Some 200,000 people left us, but 208,000 came back. That means we are larger on an absolute basis, but not on a relative basis compared to other health funds. We have greatly improved services, and even if the health insurance law will allow citizens to move freely from one insurer to another, we don't expect to lose substantial numbers of members."



Haim Ramon embraces MKs Shmuel Avital (center) and Amir Peretz, who joined his Histadrut campaign and were expelled from the Labor Party along with him, during his victory address late Tuesday night. (Bernie Ardov/PPA)

## 'Davar' staffers await Ramon's decision on paper's future

THE Histadrut-owned newspaper *Davar* unexpectedly turned into a media attraction yesterday, following MK Haim Ramon's landslide victory in the Histadrut elections the previous night.

Ramon had repeatedly vilified *Davar* during his campaign, called it the Israeli *Pravda*, accused it of being outgoing Secretary-General Haim Haberfeld's mouthpiece and charged the reporters with distorting every single item the paper published.

Ramon implied that he would close the newspaper down, stating that if *Davar* could not increase its readership, when he came into office it would have no justification for existing.

*Davar's* workers, who had come to work as usual yesterday, were taken by surprise when at least two television crews "raided" the editorial offices and Israel Radio talk show host Shelly Yehimovitz called to interview the workers' union members.

The television and radio reporters interviewed the journalists about their feeling after Ramon's victory and whether they felt that their jobs were at stake. They also interviewed the editors of *Davar*. Aher, *Davar's* popular satirical supplement which was being prepared as usual, "but with an emphasis on the Histadrut elections, of course," one journalist said, re-

fusing to divulge any of the supplement's jokes to be released this Friday.

"They asked us if we felt threatened, now that Ramon has won the elections. We said that we've often felt threatened before: We felt threatened under former Secretary-General Yisrael Kesser and afterwards, Haberfeld," union chairman Efraim Davidi reported yesterday.

He said "the newspaper has always had the threat of closure hanging over it because it is not profitable and because it seems to anger and bother a lot of political and Histadrut elements. This is because it has always maintained

editorial freedom, and this makes certain people angry."

Other workers said that the Histadrut displays a double standard regarding *Davar*. On the one hand they want it to be a newspaper like all the others, on a professional standard, while on the other they get upset if anything is written which they do not like.

One editor explained that the reason the newspaper is not profitable is not because it is bad, but because "of deliberate neglect on the part of the owners. For more than a year there has not been a board of directors or director-general. Everyone knows that the old printing presses must be changed, for instance, but there is no one to make the decisions."

## Netanyahu also about to swallow his post-election bitter pill

IN the chaotic aftermath of the Histadrut elections, long knives are being sharpened not only in Labor but also in the Likud, ostensibly the campaign's other loser.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu's relentless foes are already lurking in the shadows. They have lost no time in blaming Netanyahu for the Likud's first-ever failure to make small electoral gains since it first entered the Histadrut arena.

Netanyahu is now accused of having missed "a historic opportunity" to capture the Histadrut and deny the left its formidable power base once and for all.

Had he only dumped lackluster candidate Ya'acov Shamai and replaced him with the more photogenic Meir Sheerit, argue his in-house critics, the Histadrut would have fallen to the Likud like a ripe fruit. Sheerit would have defeated Haberfeld, they say, and that would have been the real revolution. All that happened on Tuesday was that one Labor ticket defeated the other Labor ticket.

There is no denying that the Histadrut helm did not stray far from the hands which grasped it thus far. But the very fact that it went to someone from Labor's own family tree, it is said around

Netanyahu, belies the claim that Sheerit could have won. The Likud did not lose to Haberfeld but to Ramon, and Sheerit's retroactive boosters conveniently ignore the Ramon wild card.

The Likud always did and still does lack the troops on the Histadrut battlefield. Most of its members do not belong to the Histadrut and do not have a vote. In previous campaigns, the Likud benefited from protest voters who picked its ballot as a way of expressing disgust with the Labor establishment. Now these protesters were given a very publicized and trendy new outlet and one who because of his Labor extraction and ongoing party connections stood a very real chance of conquering the Labor bastion.

The Likud was relegated to the outsider status it only seemed to avoid in past years. But in actual fact it never came close to being a moving force in the Histadrut establishment. It is unlikely that Sheerit vs. Ramon would have yielded results significantly different from Shamai vs. Ramon.

All this does not mean that the

results will not provide new grist for MK David Levy's mill or that they will not also be exploited by MK Ariel Sharon. Members of the Levy camp were already busy yesterday depicting the Likud's loss as a calamity equal to the beating taken by Labor, this despite the fact that Labor was felled from power after a 73-year hegemony, and by a kindred combination, at that.

The Likud in contrast, as Shamai emphasized, was never in power and never had as much to lose. Nevertheless, it is agreed in the Likud that Shamai has probably waged his last battle for the Histadrut, and this not because Sheerit would have won, but because this is the era of media stars and headline-makers, which Shamai is not.

While David Levy can be expected to go after Netanyahu, his brother Maxim - the number-two on the Likud Histadrut list - will now do his utmost to immediately unseat Shamai and replace him as head of the Likud Histadrut faction.

From the sidelines, Sheerit will admonish all with his "I told you so." All this will not bring Netanyahu down, but it's a commotion he could do without, admit his aides.

## IBA head blasts Channel Two for violating election agreement

ISRAEL Broadcasting Authority Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum yesterday accused the Second Channel News Company of violating the agreement that both stations would open their sample Histadrut election results at exactly 10 p.m.

Kirschenbaum said the commercial news company revealed its results at 9:58 p.m.

"The Second Channel crudely violated the agreement it had requested to make with us. This must make us reconsider any future similar joint agreements. We won't settle for just a protest, but will draw conclusions," Kirschenbaum told the IBA Executive Committee in its weekly meeting.

Towards the end of the meeting, Kirschenbaum received a letter of apology from Eilon Shalev, director general of the Second Channel News Company. In the letter, Shalev apparently said the presenters and broadcast directors had ignored his specific order to wait until the agreed hour.

He said the source of the problem was the complexity of the broadcast carried out jointly by two groups - the news company and Keshet - and that it was the first attempt at such a joint ven-

ture within the new station.

Television reviewers in the Hebrew press yesterday noted the effect of competition during the first elections covered by both stations. This led to the sight of a victorious Haim Ramon with ear pieces dangling from either side of his head being aggressively pushed for an exclusive initial response. Journalists also interrupted the party's celebrations, unwilling to accept a joint statement by Ramon and refusing to wait until after he had addressed supporters.

In other matters, Kirschenbaum announced at yesterday's meeting that the Friday night news magazine will be broadcast at the earlier hour of 8 p.m. from May 20, the same date that Yisrael Segal will return as editor and presenter.

Committee members announced their dissatisfaction with Treasury policy which does not allow the IBA to pay "star salaries," warning this would result in talent running to the commercial competitor. Kirschenbaum said he was trying to push for personal contracts.

## Ladies stick by Labor

HAIM Ramon's landslide Histadrut election victory almost overshadowed the triumph of Labor's Na'amat secretary-general, Ofra Friedman, who so far has received 53.57% of the women's votes nationwide.

The Ramon candidate, Meretz MK Anat Maor, received 26.36% of the vote. Final results are expected today.

Friedman's achievement, on the smaller Na'amat scale, is even greater than Ramon's, who only gleaned 47% of the vote.

Apparently, tens of thousands of women who voted for Ramon for Histadrut secretary-general, switched to Labor when casting their ballot for Israel's biggest women's movement, Na'amat.

These results indicate that unlike the men voters, most women did not fall for Ramon's electoral promises, youth and charismatic looks.

It was as though thousands of women said to themselves in the voting booth: "Yes, we certainly need a change in the Histadrut. It would be wonderful to throw out the old geezers and have someone on the fifth floor with blue eyes and a baby face for a change. But where the serious business - i.e., women's issues - is concerned, let's leave the veteran Labor girls in place, so they can keep up the good work."

Among all the speeches, commentaries, statements and analyses of the elections and the results on that turbulent night, not one word was uttered about the workers.

Somehow it just slipped the mind of the winners, the losers, the politicians and the commentators that the workers - you know, those people who go to work in the morning and return at night, for a monthly wage - are what the Histadrut is all about.

Ramon spoke high politics, romantic ideology, promised Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin not to run against him for premier in 1996 and discussed forming a coalition with Labor. Not a word about the workers, the public who had voted for him and whom the Histadrut represents. Sasha Sadan contributed to this report.

## NO COALITION

(Continued from Page 1)

received word that Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will offer him a consolation prize, possibly an ambassadorship.

Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvili is in a more difficult position, and pressure for his removal is reportedly growing within the party.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and MKs Hagai Merom, Avraham Burg, Yael Dayan, and Nawaf Massalha met yesterday in the framework of the Mashov Circle and demanded that the party constitution be amended to allow the immediate return of Ramon and MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital to Labor.

The three were expelled after their challenge to Labor's Histadrut ticket, and the party rules now demand an 18 month cooling-off period before they can be readmitted and after six months before they can run on any Labor ticket.

Ramon's bitterest foes are also staging a different tune following his decisive victory. Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who vociferously advocated expelling Ramon and berated his "immaturity," spoke of the "need to heal the rift. There is no point in splitting our forces. Under the proper conditions, members who left us should come home. After all, our platform is not all that different."

Shahal also indicated that he is willing to sacrifice Haberfeld.

"The loser has to be ready to pay the price. There is sort of a ministerial responsibility here," he argued.

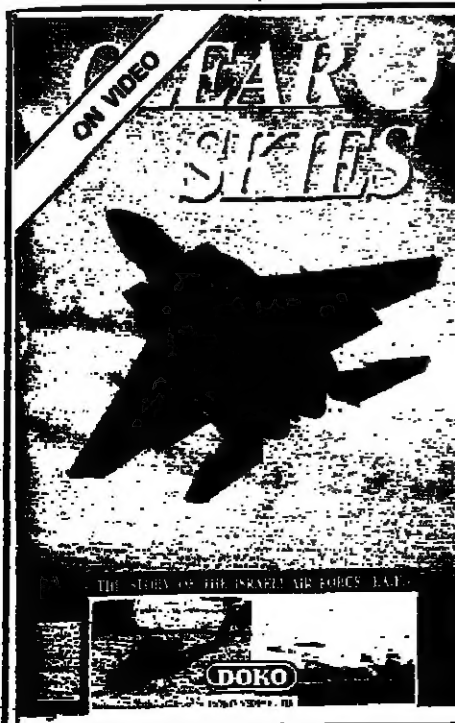
## Histadrut election results

WITH 83.8 percent of the vote tabulated, the results in the Histadrut election were:

Ramon-Meretz-Shas	47.25%
Labor	32.62%
Likud	17.88%
Joint Jewish-Arab List	2.25%

With 80% of the vote tabulated, the Na'amat results were:

Labor	53.21%
Ramon	23.66%
Likud	19.05%
Joint List	4.8%



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## For the Information of the Public

Effective Wednesday, May 14, 1994, on Saturday nights and after festivals, the following train timetables will apply

Haifa Central	Dep. 20:54	Tel Aviv	Dep. 22:30
Haifa Bat Galm	Dep. 21:00	Netanya	Dep. 22:49
Atlit	Dep. 21:11	Hadera	Dep. 22:59
Binyamina	Dep. 21:25	Binyamina	Dep. 23:08
Hadera	Dep. 21:34	Atlit	Dep. 23:22
Netanya	Dep. 21:44	Haifa Bat Galm	Arr. 23:40
Tel Aviv	Arr. 22:10	Haifa Central	Arr. 23:46

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## Excerpts from security agreement

BELOW are excerpts of the Gaza Jericho Accord's Annex I Security Arrangements relating to entry into the two areas for both Israelis and Palestinians between the two areas:

**Article VII - The Crossing Points**  
Israelis entering the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area shall carry Israeli documentation (if they are above the age of 16) and, if driving a vehicle, a driving license and vehicle registration documentation recognized in Israel. Tourists to Israel entering the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area shall carry their passports and other relevant documentation.

Entry of residents of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area to Israel shall be subject to Israeli laws and procedures regulating entry into Israel, and such residents shall be required to carry the identity card as agreed upon in this document as well as documentation specified by Israel.

The provisions of this Agreement shall neither prejudice the use of safe passage nor Israel's right, for security and safe considerations, to close the crossing points to Israel and to prohibit or limit the entry into Israel of residents and of vehicles from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area.

**Passage to and from Gaza:**  
Passage between the Gaza Strip and Israel will be via one or more of the following crossing points: the Erez crossing point; the Nahal Oz crossing point; and the Sufa crossing point.

The Palestinian Authority may set up a checkpoint, within the Gaza Strip, on the road leading to the Erez crossing point and on the road leading to the Nahal Oz crossing point, at locations to be coordinated between the two sides, for the purpose of inspection and identification of passengers and vehicles.

Israelis and tourists to Israel passing through these checkpoints may be only required to identify themselves by presenting Israeli documentation or a passport. The above requirements shall not apply to uni-

formed members of the Israeli military forces.

Passage of Israelis, and tourists to Israel, between the Gaza Strip and Israel may, in addition, be via the following crossing points: the Karni crossing point; the Kisufim crossing point; the Kerem Shalom crossing point; and the Erez Sinai crossing point.

Israelis, and tourists to Israel, who have passed through any of the above crossing points into the Gaza Strip shall not be required to undergo any inspection, identification or other requirements in addition to the stated provisions for entry into the Gaza Strip outlined in this Article.

Tourists to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area from countries having diplomatic relations with Israel, who have passed through an international crossing, will not be required to pass any additional entry control before entry into Israel.

**Passage to and from the Jericho Area:**  
Passage between the Jericho Area and the rest of the West Bank shall be governed by the same rules regulating the movement of persons and vehicles within the West Bank, and shall not need to be effected through designated crossing points.

**Passage between the Jericho Area and Israel via the West Bank:**  
Passage between the Jericho Area and Israel via the West Bank shall be governed by the currently applicable rules regulating the movement of persons and vehicles between the West Bank and Israel.

**Article IX - Arrangements for Safe Passage between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area:**  
There shall be safe passage between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area for residents of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area and visitors to these areas from abroad, as detailed in this Article.

Israel will ensure safe passage during daylight hours (from sunrise to sunset) for persons and transportation.

Safe passage will be effected via the following designated crossing points: the Erez crossing

point; and the Vered Yericho crossing point.

Residents of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area in possession of a permit enabling them to enter Israel will be able to use this permit as a safe passage card.

Safe passage cards and vehicle safe passage permits shall be stamped by the Israeli authorities at the crossing points with the time of departure from the crossing point and the estimated time of arrival.

Residents of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area who are denied entry into Israel may be permitted by Israel to use safe passage in accordance with special arrangements to be made in each individual case through the Joint Security Committee (JSC).

Special arrangements will apply with respect to passage of Palestinian leaders, senior Palestinian Authority officials and distinguished personalities.

Persons and vehicles in transit under these arrangements shall neither break their journey nor depart from the designated routes, and shall complete the transit within the designated time stamped on their safe passage cards and permits, unless a delay is caused by a medical emergency or a technical breakdown.

Persons using safe passage shall be subject to the laws and regulations applicable in Israel and in the West Bank respectively.

Persons and vehicles using safe passage shall not carry explosives, firearms or other weapons or ammunition, except for special cases that will be agreed to in the JSC.

Routes used for safe passage shall be closed on Yom Kippur, Israel's Memorial Day and Israel's Independence Day.

Without prejudice to the use of safe passage, Israel may, for security or safety reasons, temporarily modify the arrangements for safe passage. Notice of such temporary modification shall be given to the Palestinian Authority through the JSC. At least one route of safe passage shall, however, remain open.



Miss Israel, Ravit Yarkoni, wears a gown created by Filipino designer Jo Salazar as part of the Miss Universe pageant in Manila. Politicians claimed the gown, under which a pair of shorts can be seen, is an insult to Filipino women. They attacked the organizers of the pageant for desecrating a religious procession by parading Miss Israel in the dress. (AP)

## Clinton may cite immunity in sexual harassment case

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton's defense against a sexual harassment lawsuit is likely to begin with a claim of presidential immunity. And if the case goes to trial, Paula Corbin Jones' lawsuit could turn on conflicting statements by her acquaintances and relatives.

Jones' suit was assigned to US District Judge Susan Webber Wright, a former student of Clinton at the University of Arkansas law school.

Clinton attorney Robert Bennett has said he may argue that a president cannot be held accountable for actions that preceded his term as chief executive.

"It's novel legal ground as to whether the president can be sued for things done prior to assuming office," said Erwin Chemerinsky, a University of Southern California law professor who specializes in civil rights and constitutional law.

In a 1982 case involving former President Richard Nixon, the US Supreme Court ruled the president has absolute immunity for his official actions. But the court did not consider actions before a president was sworn in.

The potential conflict in the case became apparent when Jim Fenderson and Diane Rose of San Francisco, a husband and wife who said they have been friends of

Jones, told The Associated Press that Jones repeatedly asserted to them during the 1992 presidential campaign that she had never met Clinton.

"She said she had seen Clinton but they had never met," Fenderson said in a telephone interview, corroborated by his wife. "This was probably from January or February 1992 through the next year."

Their comments seem to contradict Jones' account of an incident of alleged sexual harassment by Clinton on May 8, 1991, and also conflict with statements by Jones' sister, Charlotte Brown. In 1991, Jones' account does not square with Brown's.

Such confusion could undermine Jones' suit and may be an important part of Clinton's defense fashioned by Bennett. Bennett has said Clinton doesn't recall meeting Jones, a state employee at the time, and denies the incident occurred.

"Credibility and corroboration [of witnesses] could be very important," says Chemerinsky.

Jones filed suit in Little Rock, Ark., last Friday, seeking \$700,000 in damages from Clinton for "willful, outrageous and malicious conduct" at a Little Rock hotel during a state management conference when Clinton was governor.

## Confessed serial killer Joel Rifkin found guilty

SHIRLEY E. PERLMAN and SYLVIA ADCOCK  
MINEOLA, N.Y.

CONFESSED serial killer Joel Rifkin was convicted Monday of murdering Tiffany Bresciani after a Superior Court jury swiftly dismissed defense arguments that he was legally insane when he killed the 22-year-old and 16 other women.

Rifkin showed little emotion as he stood and faced the jurors while the jury forewoman read the guilty verdict, agreed upon after just two hours and 10 minutes of deliberation. But Rifkin's eyes began darting back and forth as the jurors were asked one by one if they agreed with the verdict.

The 35-year-old unemployed landscaper from East Meadow, N.Y., was on trial for the murder of Bresciani, whose decomposing body was found in the back of his pickup truck when he was arrested last June 28. After Rifkin's arrest, he admitted to other murders, and he will be tried separately in other counties for those killings.

"We're just glad that this man is not free to hurt anybody else," said Pearl Suria, Bresciani's grandmother, said in a telephone interview. Tiffany lived with Suria and her mother, Cheryl Bresciani, in a suburb of New Orleans until she left home at age 17.

Jury Rita Cobian said she believed that Rifkin was faking his mental illness.

"Dietz had it, hands down," said Cobian, referring to Dr. Park Dietz, the prosecution psychiatrist. He successfully rebutted defense psychologist Barbara Kir-

win's efforts to paint Rifkin as a paranoid schizophrenic who didn't understand right from wrong when he strangled and disposed of his victims, who were mostly prostitutes.

Cobian, a business student, said she would have preferred that New York had the death penalty so Rifkin could be executed. "I don't think he has the right to live. Even with one murder, he's given up the right to live," Rifkin's mother, Jeanne, who has previously declined to speak to the media, came to the door of her East Meadow home Monday and spoke publicly about her son for the first time.

"All I can say is, Joel has always been a very gentle person. I don't know what happened," said Jeanne Rifkin, who did not attend the trial. "All I can say is it's a tragedy for everyone concerned. If there was a way that it could have been averted, it would have been."

Nassau County Court Judge Ira H. Wexner sent sentencing for June 8, when Rifkin could receive 27 1/3 years to life in prison.

Several jurors interviewed said there were no disagreements in the deliberations that ended the three-week trial. The only hang-up was some confusion over the elements of reckless endangerment, they said. After the verdict, Rifkin was sent back to the Nassau County jail, where he has been held since his arrest. *Newsday*

## US survey: Good students have sex too

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - Adolescents who are good students and go to church are just as likely to have sex as students who have divorced parents and low self-esteem, researchers reported.

The researchers at Northwestern University Medical School surveyed 1,000 Chicago-area elementary and junior high school students.

They found that grades, church attendance, self-esteem and parents' marital status had little or no effect on adolescents' sexual activity.

Dr. Michael Benson, one of the researchers, presented the results Monday at a conference in Orlando of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He said that while the study was not a national survey he believes the results would apply to most American adolescents.

Among other findings:  
• Twenty-six percent of the boys in sixth, seventh and eighth grades said they'd had sex. Among eighth-grade boys, 80 percent of the blacks surveyed and 40 percent of the whites and Hispanics said they'd had sex.

• Of the 8th-grade girls, 30 percent of blacks said they'd had sex, as did 10 percent of the whites and Hispanics.

• Students who had considered suicide were more sexually active and boys were generally more sexually active than girls.

## Racial slurs to be removed from Scrabble dictionary

EMILY TORGAN  
NEW YORK

points. On March 22, the ADL sent a letter to the Milton Bradley Company, which owns and distributes the game.

"This is literally playing games with hate," wrote the ADL, which gives "legitimacy to historically hateful and personally hurtful terms in a book that serves as a parlor game guide."

On April 13, Donald M. Robbins, senior vice president and general counsel of Hasbro, Inc., which owns the Milton Bradley Company, wrote back declaring that the next dictionary, to be printed in September, would bar the offensive terminology from Scrabble boards everywhere.

"We cannot be a party to offen-

sive slang," wrote Robbins, who said his company is presently preparing a list of offensive terms to be pulled from the dictionary.

Abe Foxman, ADL's national director, applauded Hasbro's quick action.

"Some people live by Scrabble, and from their perspective, that dictionary is the Bible," said Foxman. "It gave legitimacy to those ugly terms. People relate to what is important to them, and for some, this was very important."

## Accompanying letters to the accord

May 4, 1994

Mr. Prime Minister,  
With regard to the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, signed in Cairo on May 4, 1994 (hereinafter "the Agreement"), the PLO hereby confirms the following:

1. The PLO undertakes to ensure that the Palestinian Authority, including the Palestinian Police and other Palestinian Authority agencies, will function in accordance with the Agreement, and that the Palestinian Authority will activate the coordination and cooperation mechanism in a timely manner.

2. The PLO undertakes to cooperate with Israel, and to assist it, in its efforts to locate and to return to Israel, Israelis who are missing in action and the bodies of killed soldiers which have not been recovered.

3. The PLO undertakes to submit to the next meeting of the Palestinian National Council for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant, as undertaken in the letter dated September 9, 1993 signed by the Chairman of the PLO and addressed to the Prime Minister of Israel.

4. When Chairman Arafat enters the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, he will use the title "Chairman (Ra'ees in Arabic) of the Palestinian Authority" or "Chairman of the PLO", and will not use the title "President of Palestine."

5. Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area pending the outcome of the permanent status

negotiations.

6. Pursuant to Article IV, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, the PLO shall inform the Government of Israel of the names of the members of the Palestinian Authority in a letter that shall be provided within a week of signing the Agreement. The appointment of these members to the Palestinian Authority shall take effect upon an exchange of letters between the PLO and the Government of Israel. Changes in the membership of the Palestinian Authority will take effect upon an exchange of letters between the PLO and the Government of Israel.

7. Immediately after the conclusion of the Agreement, early empowerment negotiations will commence pursuant to Article VI of the Declaration of Principles, and the sides will explore possible expansion of the scope of these negotiations beyond the five spheres.

8. The two sides will intensify the negotiations on the interim arrangements consistent with the Declaration of Principles and guided by its target date.

9. The two sides reiterate their commitment to commence permanent negotiations as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period, as provided in Article V of the Declaration of Principles.

10. As regards the relations between Israel and the PLO, and without derogating from the commitments contained in the letters dated September 9, 1993 signed by exchanged between the Prime Minister of Israel and the Chair-

man of the PLO, the two sides will apply between them the provisions contained in Article XII, paragraph 1, with the necessary changes.

11. The two Parties shall, within one month of signing the Agreement, invite the Governments of Jordan and Egypt to establish the Continuing Committee referred to in Article XII of the Declaration of Principles and in Article XVI of the Agreement.

12. The Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority shall pass all necessary legislation to implement the Agreement.

13. The two Parties shall continue discussions on the following issues:

- a. the size of the Jericho area;
- b. the positioning of a Palestinian official at the bridge;
- c. additional arrangements in the Rafah passage;
- d. all outstanding issues specified in the Agreement.

Sincerely,  
Yasser Arafat  
The Palestine Liberation Organization

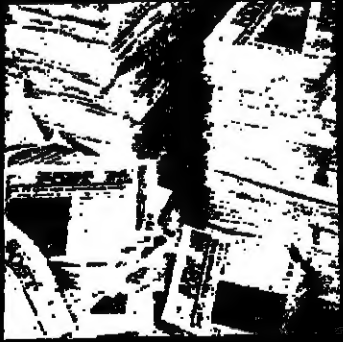
May 4, 1994

Mr. Chairman,  
The Government of the State of Israel has the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today date which reads as follows:

[See above letter]  
The Government of the State of Israel acknowledges and confirms the undertakings and commitments contained in this letter.

Sincerely,  
Yitzhak Rabin  
Prime Minister of Israel

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## Sana'a Scud attack kills 25, north vows revenge

SANA'A, Yemen (AP) — Southern forces launched a Scud missile into Sana'a yesterday, killing 25 people and raising the specter of north and south attacking each other's civilians as a terror weapon in the week-old civil war.

The northern-run Sana'a radio called the southern leaders "vile killers" and said they would "never escape the people's retribution" for the Scud attack.

The Soviet-designed ballistic missile is notoriously inaccurate, making it almost useless against military targets. It tends to be used against civilians in a bid to crush the enemy's morale.

The south appealed for humanitarian intervention in the conflict that has produced competing casualty claims ranging from a few hundred to 12,000 killed or wounded.

Each side continued to claim the upper hand in the battles between northern forces backing Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and supporters of former vice president Ali Salem al-Beidh, the southern leader whose stronghold is the port city of Aden.

But it was difficult to verify independently any of the claims in a war that could doom the May 1990 union between conservative North Yemen and the socialist south.

The Scud missile, the type used by Saddam Hussein against Israel and Saudi Arabia in the 1991 Gulf War, hit the densely populated Hassaba neighborhood of this ancient city at 1 a.m.

A mound of rubble, mangled metal, shredded wicker baskets and bodies of sheep killed in the attack filled a chasm between the skeletons of two damaged homes.

"I saw the missile fall and destroy all the houses and [there was] much fire," said neighborhood resident Ali Saleh.

Prime Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Attar told reporters 25 people were killed when the missile demolished about five mud brick and stone, one- and two-story homes. He did not say how many were wounded.

## Pentagon denies US to send troops to Haiti

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Pentagon are staunchly denying a report that the United States will send 600 heavily armed troops as part of a UN force to Haiti whether or not international sanctions force the Caribbean nation's military rulers from power.

The report, which appeared yesterday in the *Los Angeles Times*, said at least 600 heavily armed US troops would be sent under UN auspices to "purge" the Haitian military. The report, from Port-au-Prince in Haiti, quoted unidentified US and Haitian officials.

"I read that report. I didn't recognize it as any plan we're working on," Defense Secretary William Perry said yesterday at a photo session with French Minister of Foreign Affairs Alain Juppé.

Pressed to describe US options in the matter, Perry said he could not discuss "any of our contingency plans."

"The story is wrong," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said yesterday.

She said the United States still plans to take part in a UN military and police advisory group that would go to Haiti after democracy is restored to train a new police force, restructure the army and build roads. But no plans are under way for an invasion force, she said.

"Certainly, there's been no decision to send in a small force to purge the military," Myers told reporters.

"We have no idea where this is coming from," said Pentagon spokeswoman Kathleen Delaski.

The report said the United States would rather see the military leaders step down before sending in troops, but the troops will go in no matter what.

The UN military advisory group will consist almost entirely of American soldiers, the *Times* said.

Asked about the report, Madeleine Albright, US ambassador to the United Nations, said "at this stage, we are just doing a lot of contingency planning."

"If the sanctions work, then there still will be need for some kind of force to deal with the security issues in Haiti," she said today on NBC. She said it would take some time for the sanctions to take effect.

## Winnie Mandela, Buthelezi join cabinet

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Nelson Mandela's Cabinet was sworn in with solemn dignity yesterday, but fireworks are ahead as he tries to mold political rivals and his estranged wife into a government that can lead South Africa through the next stage in its history.

The potentially explosive mix of personalities and politics could hinder a government that must cope with African National Congress promises to provide housing, jobs, education and health care to the millions of blacks impoverished under white rule. The government must also cope with political violence that has killed more than 11,000 people since 1990.

On the first day of government business after his inauguration, Mandela convened his cabinet in the high-ceilinged, circular hall at the Union Buildings, where all-white governments once sat. Outside, women cleaned up from the inaugural ceremonies, stacking away the white plastic chairs that on Tuesday held dignitaries from around the world.

Mandela completed his Cabinet yesterday — all but three of 27 seats had been filled over the past week. Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and two of his supporters joined yesterday.

Buthelezi, whose followers have fought members of Mandela's ANC for a decade, threatened the legitimacy of the election by vowing to boycott it until the last minute. But his place on the cabinet was secured by his Inkatha

## Woman strafed in doughnut attack

BIDDEFORD, Maine (Reuters) — Call it assault with a sugary weapon.

Police here Tuesday said they arrested two men for a bizarre drive-by doughnut attack.

The authorities said two men have been charged with assault and a third is being sought after they admitted to pastry pelting of a pedestrian from a passing car.

The victim, Laurie Remillard, told police she was walking in Biddeford early Sunday when she was struck and hit in the face by a salvo of doughnut holes sprayed from a passing vehicle.

Remillard recorded the car's license plate when it returned for a second doughnut assault.

## Rightists take the reins in Italy

ROME (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi, sworn in as premier at the presidential palace yesterday, has finally put together a government. Now comes the truly hard part: keeping it together.

Two weeks of difficult negotiations with election allies ended when the media magnate unveiled his selections for the 25-seat cabinet, which includes five members of a party that recently grew out of a neo-fascist movement.

Berlusconi's cabinet, including 25 ministers, was also sworn in yesterday. There are also two deputy premiers in the government, with one of them also holding a ministry post.

In addition to the National Alliance, the remaining seats were divided among Berlusconi's pro-business Forza Italia (Let's Go, Italy) and the Northern League, which seeks to redistribute power from the capital to the provinces.

Considering the concern over whether one of Italy's richest businessmen would use his government to further his private empire, the words of the oath seemed to take on added significance. Berlusconi smiled broadly and pledged to exercise his office "in the exclusive interests of the country."

Berlusconi's alliance came together against the former Communists and other leftist parties during March elections. Since then, the bickering has often been loud and exposed many rifts.

For the moment, however, the governing trio appeared to have reached a delicate balance in Italy's first conservative government in a half-century.

The latest battle appears to have been won by the Northern League, which was given the powerful interior ministry seat and several other important ministries including budget and industry.

The coalition partners argued for days over who should get the interior ministry, which controls some police and investigative agencies.

"I'm satisfied with the entire team," said the Northern League's leader Umberto Bossi, who only a month ago denounced Berlusconi as a power-hungry autocrat.

The National Alliance — which developed out of neo-fascist party with direct links to dictator Benito Mussolini — wields less power than the other two election allies but presents the biggest dilemma for Berlusconi.

The European Parliament and others have warned Italy to keep fascists out of government. Some leftist parties say the National



Gianfranco Fini, leader of the National Alliance, a movement with ties to the Mussolini-era fascists, reads yesterday's issue of the party paper in his office in Rome. The headline reads, "The right is the government". (AP)

Alliance is a dangerous throw-back to Mussolini.

But Berlusconi insists the National Alliance has broken from his fascist roots and no longer pushes the anti-foreigner and ultra-nationalistic principles of Mussolini.

Among the National Alliance members in the cabinet is the new telecommunications minister, Giuseppe Tatarella, a long-time neo-fascist deputy and a close aide to National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini. Tatarella also was appointed as one of the two deputy premiers.

Other posts going to the National Alliance were: transportation, environment, cultural affairs and agriculture — the only cabinet seat going to a woman.

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## Menem pledges swift expulsion for Nazi

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Former Nazi SS Capt. Erich Priebke will be extradited to Italy "immediately, if all the documents are in order," President Carlos Menem said yesterday.

Menem, speaking to a local radio station, said Priebke "is a war criminal who unfortunately wasn't detected until now."

"When the formal extradition request is received from the Italian justice system, and everything is in order, he will immediately be sent to Italy to be judged there," Menem said. Italian prosecutors signed an order Monday seeking Priebke's extradition.

Priebke, 80, has lived more than four decades under his own name in Bariloche, a town of 80,000 people in the Andean foothills. He is the president of a local German-Argentine cultural association, which oversees a 700-student private school.

Priebke, who escaped from a prison camp in Italy in 1946, said he was absolved by a British tribunal after the war and therefore never feared capture. He denied

personally killing anyone.

Priebke's lawyer, Pedro Bianchi, said Tuesday night the extradition request should be refused because "no one can be judged twice for the same crime."

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, which tries to track down Nazi war criminals, said it knows of no British court absolving Priebke. It also says proceedings begun against Priebke in Germany were dropped when he couldn't be found.

Shimon Samuels, the center's European director, said Priebke should be tried for crimes against humanity, which have no statute of limitations under the Nuremberg tribunals, held after World War II.

"If he has ever been in Italy anywhere, it was not the British, and not crimes against humanity," Samuels told The Associated Press by telephone.

Samuels said there should be no problem taking the case to court in Italy, where Priebke has never been judged.

## Rebels closer to taking Kigali; besiege strategic army camp

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — Battered government soldiers fought fiercely yesterday to stall a rebel advance in the Rwandan capital that threatens a key army stronghold near the airport.

The rebels have attacked Kigali along several fronts the past week with artillery, mortars and infantry. But they have focused their might on Kanombe camp, a base on the city's outskirts defended by three government battalions.

The fall of the camp would give the rebels control of the airport.

UN officials said again yesterday that the capital could fall in days.

As the rebel offensive on Kigali entered its second week, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali proposed sending at least 5,500 UN soldiers to Rwanda to ensure the safety of refugees and the delivery of aid.

The troops, however, would not be authorized to try to stop the fighting.

The constant shelling in Kigali has made it impossible for the United Nations to deliver enough food, water and medical supplies to more than 15,000 people living under UN protection in the city.

## Bosnian gov't army shells Brcko

SARAJEVO (AP) — Government shelling of a Serb-held northern Bosnian town killed a pregnant woman and two children, heightening tensions at a potential new flashpoint, UN observers said yesterday.

Ten mortar bombs hit the center of Brcko on Tuesday evening as Bosnian Serb representatives gathered for a meeting, said Cmdr. Eric Chaparon, a UN spokesman in Sarajevo.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, also were meeting in the town at the time of the attack. It was not clear how far they were from where the

shells landed. In addition to the three dead, at least 13 people were wounded.

A UN spokesman in Zagreb, Croatia, speaking on condition of anonymity, said newly deployed UN military observers in Brcko believed that Moslem-led government forces had fired the rounds.

Brcko is in the narrowest part of a corridor across northern Bosnia linking Serb-held territory in the east and west.

Both sides have been building up forces in the area for what UN observers fear could be the next major battle in Bosnia's two-year-old war.

In Vienna, Bosnian Moslem and

Croat leaders reached agreement on the map and political structure of a federation that would cover 58 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The agreement is to be formally signed in Geneva on May 14.

The maps could prove pointless, however, if Serbs refuse to cede territory. Serbs hold about 70 percent of the republic, and mediators say the federation needs 51 percent of Bosnia to be viable.

Bosnian Croat leader Kresimir Zubak said the agreement calls for a Croat president during a six-month transition period, a Bosnian Moslem premier and six Croat posts in a 17-member joint Muslim-Croat government.

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## What kind of self-rule

A remark made by a Palestinian resident of Gaza on seeing the first uniformed Palestinian policeman enter the district must have struck many as poignant. "It is a very exciting moment," he said. "We have never had police before."

This is, of course, all too true. There has never been a Palestinian police force, nor any kind of Palestinian self-rule. The whole concept of a separate Palestinian nationhood west of the Jordan is three decades old. And it is doubtful that it could develop at all had it not served to challenge Israel's right to exist in "Palestine."

Yet it would be foolish to deny the existence of fierce nationalistic passions among Palestinian Arabs today. Clearly, the joy among the residents of Gaza and Jericho at the sight of Israeli withdrawal is as genuine as is their need to prove their patriotism by stoning Israelis.

But as Israeli rule dissolves, many Palestinians must ask themselves if attaining the goal of self-determination will mean not only the absence of the Israeli army but the kind of independent life they have envisioned.

They may find that life under the PLO is not what they expect. As one foreign correspondent put it this week, Palestinians may soon realize that despite all the restrictions under Israeli rule, they have been living under conditions far more liberal than anything known in the Arab world.

If anything, this is an understatement. Though PLO chief Yasser Arafat likes to talk about Palestinian democracy, it is difficult to imagine his running anything resembling a

democratic state. When the PLO ruled a mini-state in Lebanon, it matched the most ruthless Arab dictatorships for brutality, terrorism and bloodthirstiness.

If Gaza and Jericho miraculously do not turn into another Lebanon, it will be because the local population, exposed to democratic practices for 27 years, may not easily accept tyranny. Even before the PLO leadership from Tunis and the army units trained in Iraq, Libya and Yemen — euphemistically known as "police" — have entered the areas, the local and "outside" leaderships are at odds.

This is not only a matter of turf, of the local intifada heroes demanding a larger share of the spoils of power. It is a conflict between a foreign-based leadership accustomed to Arafat's one-man rule and local lawyers, doctors, journalists and businessmen who talk of converting Fatah into a political party, conducting primary elections for party leadership, and running open, free national elections to determine who will run the Palestinian entity.

The outcome will be the first indication of the kind of rule the Palestinian authority will have. Obviously, Israelis must hope the democratic forces will win. If the Palestinian entity becomes the first democracy in the Arab world, it would be more interested in satisfying its electorate's daily needs than in terrorizing Israel and forming alliances with neighboring dictatorships. An Arafat-led police state, on the other hand, would ensure that the new entity will become a hotbed of terrorism, and a bridgehead for an eventual assault on Israel by radical Arab and Islamic regimes.

## Shaky hybrid

If Italians had expected a sleek horse of a government after cleaning out their noisome political stables in the March elections, they may be disappointed to find they've got a bad-tempered camel instead. Whatever it is, the cabinet cobbled together by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi after a month of haggling is a strange beast indeed — combining his television-spawned Forza Italia, the federalist Northern League and the dubious neofascists of the National Alliance.

It wasn't long ago that Northern League leader Umberto Bossi was railing against Berlusconi as a power-crazy, self-interested autocrat, a man whom he would never accept as prime minister. And for Bossi, the neofascists were entirely beyond the pale. But if insults are the currency of politics, Bossi's have reaped a fat dividend. His Northern League takes control of the powerful Interior, Budget and Industry ministries. The Northern League has seven cabinet seats, the National Alliance four, and independents three. The remaining 11 seats in the 25-strong cabinet went to Berlusconi's Forza party, which he founded only last November using the formidable resources of his three television companies — which attract more than half of Italy's

viewers.

But the biggest risk taken by Berlusconi is giving the neofascists a grip on power for the first time in post-war Italy. Undoubtedly, he had little choice, given their strong showing in the elections, which swept out the old guard of Italian politicians. But it is not just foreigners who will be watching carefully how the heirs of Mussolini acquit themselves in a democratic government. President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro gave the new prime minister an unprecedented public warning — which Berlusconi accepted — "not to appoint anyone who might harm Italy at home or abroad."

The president's warning is a clear signal to the neofascists to behave themselves, after some disgraceful outbursts of racism during the election campaign. Europeans may tentatively put the verbal tuggery down to the skinhead fringe and the heat of the moment. But the party is on strict probation inside and outside Italy to act out the verbal assurances of its leader Gianfranco Fini. He insists he has cut off the Alliance's fascist roots and no longer allows the anti-foreigner, ultra-nationalistic rhetoric that echoes Mussolini. Many will need convincing that the spots of this particular leopard are a mere optical illusion.



## Anatomy of a decision

KARL DEROUEN

THE repercussions of foreign policy decisions made today as part of the ongoing peace negotiations will be felt for many years.

The decision-making process itself may prove important in determining the eventual outcome.

The government's foreign policy alternatives can be simplified as:

1. Pushing the Declaration of Principles through in more or less its present form and allowing Palestinian autonomy;
2. Pushing it through with the tacit understanding that it will lead to a Palestinian state after the five-year interim period;
3. Autonomy and a return of the Golan Heights;
4. Palestinian statehood and a return of the Golan Heights.

If we assume that the three decision dimensions are political, military/security and economic, we can rank the alternatives according to the score each receives across the three dimensions.

Pushing for implementation of the DOP and autonomy (1) is an attractive choice. Politically, the government would save face by demonstrating a good-faith effort at bringing peace. Economically, there would conceivably be a further relaxation of the boycott, particularly as relations with the Gulf states and Jordan warm. The security dimension is promising because of fewer direct contacts between the security forces and Arabs in Gaza; at the same time, Israel maintains control over the Jordan Valley — perhaps along the lines of the Alon Plan.

Autonomy leading to statehood (2) is also appealing. Economically, it could lead to an end to the boycott. If Israel maintained authority along the west bank of the Jordan River, the military situation from this choice would not be unworkable.

Politically, however, this choice becomes less tenable. A Palestin-

ian state could potentially harbor many virulent anti-Israel radicals, and there would be doubts over the security of Jews living in the Palestinian state.

ONCE THE Golan enters the picture, the choice becomes more complicated. The public is largely unaware of the alternatives which boost a leader's popularity don't always provide the greatest security or economic benefit. But Israel's in luck

against returning this strategic region, and thus the political score for this choice is low. Economically, the Damascus-based boycott would undoubtedly be all but forgotten except by Iran, Iraq and Libya.

In terms of terrorism, Israel would demand guarantees from Syria that it end support of anti-Israel factions in southern Lebanon, and quit harboring terrorists like Ahmed Jibril.

But as far as long-term military security is concerned, the loss of the heights is a high price to pay.

The final alternative, a Palestinian state and a return of the Golan, is the least politically attractive choice. However, economically, it represents the alternative most likely to obtain much-needed peace dividends. Certainly there is potential for co-operation along the lines of Israel being used by the Arab states as a conduit to the West, Dead Sea

projects, shared water resources and gas pipelines.

Security-wise, there are the problems of the Palestinian state plus the loss of the heights. The most immediate threat of terrorist attacks inside the Green Line by Arabs in the new state could conceivably cancel out Syrian guarantees of stability in southern Lebanon.

Where does this leave the government? The first alternative, autonomy alone, appears to be the most attractive option if all three dimensions are taken into account.

Considering each alternative along each dimension in such a manner is a hallmark of rational choice theory.

What happens if the decision-maker does not conduct an exhaustive search process? This is precisely what many opponents of the government are accusing it of, i.e., blindly pursuing peace at the expense of other courses of action.

Scholars often accuse decision-makers in democracies of choosing the most convenient alternative, of making "foreign policy" decisions solely on the basis of boosting public approval.

Fortunately for the government, in the case of the Middle East peace process, the best alternative based on an exhaustive search and the best one based on the vagaries of domestic politics are one and the same.

Limited autonomy, perhaps with an open mind on statehood down the road, is a good first step to solving the Middle East problem. Autonomy in and of itself, combined with Israeli redeployment and PLO policing, will decrease tensions in the territories.

The writer is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Political Science at the University of Haifa.

## People power

YOASH TSIDON

'WE'RE fed up with you,' was the message voters sent the Histadrut leadership this week, in choosing Haim Ramon to be head of the labor federation.

This same cry was heard in March 1990, when the Alignment, under Shimon Peres's leadership, tried to pull off the "malodorous maneuver" to break away from the national unity government and form its own narrow coalition.

What did the Alignment do after that ploy failed? It shook off the experience and tried to change its spots. It exchanged Peres the leader of the maneuver for clean Yitzhak Rabin. The party, even changed its name to Labor to erase its shame.

It campaigned in the 1992 elections with a platform identical to that of Tsomet on domestic issues. It promised a change in political norms, a free-market economy, constitutional and normative legislation, and honesty and accountability in government.

In contrast with the plastic surgery the Alignment underwent to improve its image, Yitzhak Shamir and his associates in the Likud entrenched themselves in the old

Voters are fed up with politicians who let them down

political swamp; the one of non-fulfillment of signed agreements, maneuvers instead of bold moves and desperate resistance to the change in the system of government that Israelis were vociferously demanding.

The response of the voter came with alacrity: The Likud was trounced in the general elections and MK Binyamin Netanyahu, who symbolized change in the Likud, was overwhelmingly elected the party's leader in primaries.

ANOTHER VICTIM in the last national elections was the Tehiya Party which, like the Likud, lost its appeal due to its lack of respect for the culture of governance and its disregard for domestic policies.

In contrast, Tehiya and the Likud's sister party in the national camp, Tsomet, surged ahead. This is because Tsomet stressed in its parliamentary moves a devotion to ideas of normative and constitutional changes — the kind of issues that really matter to the voter. (To its good fortune, the party's parliamentary successes overshadowed the failures of the party's leader as agriculture minister.)

It appears that the voter, whom the media portrays as being prepared to argue to the death over matters of foreign and security issues, has been voting with domestic affairs in mind.

When Rabin betrayed the principles he advocated during the election campaign on foreign and security affairs, the public made a fuss. But when he surrendered to Habersfeld-Zvili on the matter of a national health law and other domestic issues, he lost "big," as evidenced by the results of this week's elections.

It is to be hoped that Ramon will not follow the path of Rabin, and will not disappoint his voters. The people are fed up with political personalities who let them down.

If he keeps his word, Ramon will come out ahead. The path to power, from which the victor can conduct the country's security and foreign affairs, begins in domestic policy — an area that many politicians only pay attention to on the eve of elections.

Both the leadership and the led should heed this lesson.

The writer is a former MK.

## To Our Readers

Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

The Advertising Department

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MORAL BANKRUPTCY

Sir, — For anyone harboring doubts as to the moral bankruptcy and political inanity of the ideocrats who run the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, Yehiel Leiter's not-too-cleverly disguised defense of political terror ("Hothouse for hothouses," May 1) should quickly dispel them. Instead of unequivocally denouncing the use of assassination as an illegitimate weapon in the struggle against the government's misguided "peace" policy, Leiter all but sanctions terror where other tactics fail to produce the desired results. Both the government and the opposition are warned that inaction will likely "breed acts of political violence among increasingly frightened and increasingly desperate people throughout the nation."

Leiter balks at explicitly endorsing assassination as a viable instrument of political change, not because it is morally, legally and politically abhorrent, but because it will produce undesirable results: "the inevitable destruction of the Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza."

In my opinion, not only is assass-

sination unquestionably not a permissible alternative (even in these trying times), but merely invoking the threat of political terror as a means of facilitating policy change (as he has done), is contemptible. The Jews of Judea, Samaria and Gaza will be called upon to show great courage and resolve in the weeks and months to come, as the government pursues its campaign to make Palestinian Arab sovereignty in an ethnically cleansed Yesha an irreversible fact. I, for one, believe it is both a great challenge and a privilege to defend the Jewish patrimony in the Land of Israel as this critical juncture in Jewish history. But with that privilege comes a weighty responsibility. By refusing to disavow political terror and by using the threat of assassination to spur action, Leiter and the Council staff have violated that responsibility and with it the right to speak for the 140,000 of us who, whether by design or default, are now being called upon to guarantee the future of the Jewish People in Yesha.

L. MARC ZELL

Alon Shvut.

### RIGHT ON TARGET

Sir, — Netty C. Gross in "An embarrassment of riches" (April 29) distinguished herself as being a powerful writer — one with a discerning eye, razor-sharp wit and an altogether solid command of the column. That being said, for those of us who know Lawrence and other places like it (London has its own Lawrence), her essay was a long-awaited one.

For many of us, the pathologies that Ms. Gross writes of are the very reasons we are in Israel today. At least it's true in my case. Ten years ago, my wife and I shopped around for a Jewish community in which to purchase a home. Some of our friends had

moved to the Five Towns of which Lawrence is one. After several Shabbatot spent there, we thought we had landed on a different planet. (We are not New Yorkers.) It was clear that we would never be able to keep up with the high-powered nouveau-riche standard by which everyone in Lawrence is judged.

I believe the recession has caused the high-flown of Lawrence to sag somewhat, so I have heard. But the singular way by which the "fruppies" continue to assess each other — \$\$\$ — is right on target.

CHARLIE METZGER  
Jerusalem.

### THE SHILOAH CARVING

Sir, — Your story "Turkey may loan Shiloah carving for capital's birthday" (April 21) angered me very much. In the Istanbul Archeological Museum, the Shiloah stone is tucked away in a closed-off section on the dark and dusty second floor, among many unknown artifacts. During my 1987 visit there, after difficult negotiations with museum personnel, I was escorted and "allowed" to see it. It is identified by a small, torn, handwritten note.

Obviously, the stone has little significance for the Turks, while its importance to Israel is enormous. Turkey may lend it to us as a special favor if we ask nicely. Compare this to how the Egyptians demanded and received our finds in Sinai, and by all indication, we'll give in to similar Palestinian demands.

While our gestures of goodwill go unnoticed, why can't we demand something for change?

DANNY KREINDLER  
Haifa.

### ELEMENTARY DECENCY

Sir, — In most of the convoluted comments on the convoluted nature of the late American president Richard M. Nixon, there is one striking omission: An expression of elementary gratitude, at least from each of us, for the tremendous airlift of military hardware during the Yom Kippur War — a flow of supplies which enabled us to salvage what otherwise was a most desperate situation.

In all of our hierarchy, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin seems almost alone in basing his positive evaluation of Nixon on this central, vital point, whose importance to us cannot be overestimated.

RABBI JOSEPH HECKELMAN  
Safed.

## POSTSCRIPTS

CRIME IS SURE to drop in lawless Los Angeles now that Ricky Gonzalez has been nabbed.

Gonzalez was accused of illegally sucking a candy on the subway platform.

He was cited for the munching misdemeanor after sheriff's Deputy Brandon Hinkle caught him with the suspicious substance in his mouth.

"Cough drop," claimed Gonzalez.

"Candy," contended Hinkle. Gonzalez told the court he had the flu when Hinkle noticed him sucking on a "Halls Menthos-Lypso Cough Suppressant Tablet." That's medicine, not food — so he shouldn't have to cough up a \$250 fine for the offense, said the unemployed maintenance man.

Hinkle urged the judge not to swallow that excuse. He'd seen hard candy in Gonzalez's mouth — the kind of snack that leaves subway seats sticky and floors filthy, said the deputy.

The judge dismissed the charge if Gonzalez agreed to visit an equipment yard to see how workers struggle to keep the rail cars clean.

The ruling was a bitter pill for Hinkle.

"I certainly know the difference between candy and a cough drop," he grumbled outside the courtroom. "I saw him sucking on hard candy."

Is it no wonder little boys want to grow up and become policemen?

YOU PROBABLY think pagans are only good for herding executives from place to place. A Japanese farmer has found they're useful for herding cattle, too.

When it's time for the cows to come home, he dials the number of a pager hung on the lead cow's neck. The cow hears the beep and heads to the ranch, followed by the rest of the herd.

A GERMAN tourist who complained to Miami hotel keepers about a foul odor in his room unknowingly spent the night sleeping in a bed that concealed a corpse.

The badly decomposed body of a woman was found under the bed. A maid discovered the corpse while investigating the guest's

complaint about a horrible smell.

Police were checking hotel records to see who else had recently used the room. A detective said foul play is suspected because of the location of the body. "When you find somebody under the bed, it's not a place where somebody normally passes away," he said.



"Isn't it wonderful the flood is receding, Rabin?"



## What's so bad about shmoozing with my teen son's friends?

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



*Dear Ruthie,*  
My teenage son says I humiliate him all the time. I'm a young mother, and I enjoy shmoozing with his friends. I want to be close to my son — to be the kind of parent my mother never was. So when my son yells at me about my behavior, my feelings get very hurt. Am I supposed to force a generation gap on our family where it doesn't exist?

*With-It and Whimpering*  
Kfar Shmaryahu

Dear With-It,  
Generation gaps exist whether you are "with" or "without" it. There are about 20 years between you and your son. This is neither good nor bad; it's just a fact of life. The gap you fear is the one that places you in your mother's generation. So you opt to be a part of your son's. But your mother's not being the kind of parent you wished probably had little to do with her age. Nor do you have to become your son's cohort in order to be the kind of parent he needs.

Your hurt feelings are understandable. But don't blow your son's behavior out of proportion. He is, after all, an adolescent. You needn't alter your personality to suit him, but you should respect his request that you cool it around his friends.

*Dear Ruthie,*  
I am about to remarry, after being widowed for many years. The man I am marrying also lost his spouse a long time ago. We both have grown children, and we both have property as well as pensions. So I'm confused over why he is asking me to sign a prenuptial agreement.

*Wileless Widow*  
Netanya

Dear Wileless,  
Your husband-to-be is probably doesn't imagine that you have designs on his money. But his children may not be so confident.

Even if they approve of you and like you, they might feel apprehensive about their inheritance, in the event that their father dies before you.

Perhaps such a document is your future husband's way of assuaging guilt toward his late wife — proving to her and to the children that his loyalty to them will not be diminished as a result of his remarrying.

I think you should sign the agreement, making sure to get a few clauses of your own in. You too have children and property to consider.

*Dear Ruthie,*  
A close friend (or so I thought) rang me up and proceeded to list a series of crimes I have supposedly committed against her. The list was quite long, but it can be summed up as one complaint: I am selfish and never give her a chance to talk about herself. As she sees it, our only topic of conversation is me.

Although this couldn't be further from the truth as I see it, nothing I said in response could convince her. Should I grovel, or cease trying and wait for her to make the first move?

*Victim of Inquisition*  
Jerusalem

Dear Victimized,  
It depends on what you will gain by continuing this friendship, as well as what you will lose by severing it. If the only way to make peace with this woman is to grovel, you will forever be self-conscious in her presence. And groveling isn't something normally associated with genuine friendship.

A third option is neither groveling nor cutting off contact. Instead, you could apologize for having caused her grief — albeit unintentionally — and then wait for her to make a gesture.

Letters should be addressed to: *Dear Ruthie*, P.O. Box 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

## An island gateway to the Mediterranean

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

**A**RKIA is acting as the general agent for Air Malta, which is now renewing regular scheduled flights to the Mediterranean island. The price of a round-trip ticket for the 2½-hour flight is \$481, but the company intends to offer a series of packages at reduced prices during the summer. The company says Malta is also a convenient base from which to go to Sicily, southern Europe and North Africa.

**A SERIES** of tours at rock-bottom prices is being offered by World Travel Center, a travel wholesaler. The price of a 10-day tour of Turkey is \$799; for a 15-day tour of Spain and Portugal, \$1,370; for a 10-day tour of Morocco with a stopover in London, \$1,360; and for a nine-day visit to Mikonos, Santorini and Athens, \$699. According to the company, at tel. 03-5243870, the tours are available at all travel agents.

**DISENHAUS** is lowering the prices of its spring packages, for excursions to Turkey leaving through mid-June. Seven nights at the Kassis vacation club on the Black Sea, near Istanbul, cost

\$569, including breakfast and airfare, instead of \$794. A combined vacation, with four nights at the Kassis club and three nights in Istanbul, costs \$530 (previously \$623). Prices of a seven-night stay in Antalya start at \$474 (were \$541).

**A ROUND-Trip** air ticket to Antalya, Turkey, is available from Yossi Tours for \$98. The catch is that you must also buy a hotel package from a selected list. Prices start at \$104 for three nights with half board.

**A ROOM** sleeping up to five is available for Israelis at the Holiday Inn chain's Disney South Motel in Orlando, Florida, for \$38.50, while for \$60.50 a buffet breakfast for five is thrown in as well. Reservations should be made at travel agents here.

**TOURS** for religious travelers are now available through Gasher Tours for such destinations as Morocco, Thailand, Kenya and the Terra Mountains in the Czech Republic. Also available are more conventional tours of Europe and the US.



The Washington Memorial will never be the same for visitors who see it with comedian-guides.

## Washington's scandal tour

TRAVEL

HILLEL KUTTIL

**S**EX. Sleaze. Slime. Washington wouldn't be the capital of the free world without them.

So why be shepherded from monument to museum to government building by a bored-stiff tour guide, droning on for the umpteenth time about the number of steps inside the Washington Monument, or the path a bill takes in Congress before becoming law?

Instead, let a local comedy troupe called Gross National Product take you on its Scandal Tour and fillate you for 90 minutes with tidbits of the capital's infamous goings-on.

Each weekend, troupe members parade around a chartered bus costumed as everyone from former presidents to cabinet officials to mistresses, treating visitors to an uproarious interpretation of the, ahem, affairs of state.

Sure, they'll take you past the Watergate Hotel and tell all about the 1972 break-in at Democratic Party headquarters. But there's lots more.

See the Vista Hotel, where Washington mayor Marion Barry fell into an FBI sting as he smoked crack cocaine. Gawk at the Capitol Hill town house where Senator Gary Hart dallied unfaithfully with Donna Rice.

"Washington's always been the original theme park," said Scandal Tours founder John Simmons. "We just wanted to do a comedy tour on the more seamy side of public life. We have a rolling archive of smut and hypocrisy, all rolled up in one."

**NO SOONER** does the tour begin than Nancy Reagan (played by GNP comedienne Robin Abb) prances out from the rest room in back to introduce us to the bus driver, Capt. Joseph Hazelwood of the Exxon Valdez.

The former First Lady, with royal enunciation, assures everyone that Hazelwood hasn't been drinking today. "Fortunately, it's

spring and there are no icebergs for him to hit," she quips.

Queen Nancy, appearing ever so prim in a fitted red dress and white gloves, then introduces her husband's successor, George Bush (played by Simmons), who seems typically goofy in a sideways-leaning baseball cap.

Scandal No. 1, the former president points-out, is over on the right: "the Jefferson Hotel, where my nominee for secretary of defense, [the late] John Tower, would often go to get hung over."

Nancy pipes in, referring to the diminutive former senator, whose nomination was torpedoed by reports of frequent drunkenness and womanizing: "Can you really see a lady taking a look at Tower and saying: 'Gotta have him!'"

Three blocks later, Bush draws attention to "the Old Executive Office Building, otherwise known as Shred Central."

On cue, Fawn Hall, (Abb again), emerges, covered with spaghetti-thin strands of what had once been documents she'd taken care of for her boss at the height of the Iran-Contra scandal.

As we approach the obelisk-shaped Washington Monument, Nancy is back to remark: "Ever wonder why George Washington never fathered any children? It's because General George — how shall we say? — shot blanks. So why they built the monument in that shape, we'll never know."

**ABB AND SIMMONS** are two of GNP's eight political satirists.

At a Georgetown nightclub during the week, they perform in their own production, *Clinchers*, that spoofs the current administration. Bipartisanship is their middle name; under the previous president, their show was called

*Bushcapades*.

On the bus, however, they improvise, even working honored guests into the skit.

"In recognition of the reporter from *The Jerusalem Post*," Bush announces, "I want to say that [Senate Republican leader] Bob Dole has announced he is officially recognizing Bill Clinton's right to exist. In return, Clinton will give Dole the Sunset Strip and Waco, Texas."

And this one, as we pass the Supreme Court, from the lips of Jennifer Flowers ("That's Jennifer with a G, and Flowers with a Ph"), the woman who accused Clinton of having a 12-year affair with her: "The best thing about [Associate Justice] Ruth Bader Ginsburg is that she's a Jewish mother. So when all those men dissent with her, I hope she makes them feel real guilty."

And so it goes throughout the tour. We hear how drunken congressman Wilbur Mills frolicked one night in the Tidal Basin, near the Jefferson Memorial, with stripper Fanny Foxe; and that federalist John Jay's running feud paid attention to his dreams; a waitress introduces him to a man who talks about the Great Volenti, on whose private island of Cea an army guards a hollowed-out mountain full of circus performers who worship the stage as if it were a god.

By themselves, these details are little more than hints, rumors, with no specific connection to Iris or her fate. But when Alex sneaks onto Cea and joins first the army and then the circus in the mountain, he starts to see the world in a new way, and to understand that his search, while ostensibly for the woman he loves, is really a pursuit of the essence of his being.

**OF COURSE**, quest novels can be difficult, since, for them to be important, we must believe in the importance of the object being

## Search for lost wife and meaning ends in walk on a tightrope

BOOKS

DAVID ULIN

**THE CIRCUS OF THE EARTH AND THE AIR**, by Brooke Stevens (Barcoort Brace & Co., \$23.95, 410 pp.).

**I**VE never liked the circus. Even as a child, I saw it as a place of terror, not mirth, with contortionists and sideshow freaks performing grotesque, unnatural acts, and the red gashes of paint that outlined the clowns' mouths looking less like smiles than open wounds.

To my mind, there was always a dangerous quality about the Big Top, a horrible nightmare world taking shape in the shadows, which was all the more frightening because it tapped into something — archetypal memories, perhaps — that seemed to exist within me, as well.

It was as if the circus represented a curious parallel universe, primeval and symbolic, residing beneath the placid surface of everyday reality, but able to reach out and pull us into the maelstrom at any time.

Brooke Stevens' first novel, *The Circus of the Earth and the Air*, unfolds in such a universe, where logic derives from intuition and nothing is what it seems.

The book opens simply enough, as schoolteacher Alex Barton and his wife, Iris, frolic in the Atlantic Ocean off the Martha's Vineyard-like island of Verre.

The Bartons are delightfully happy; watching Iris in the water, Alex thinks of "how much he loved her and how strange and lucky it was that they were together." But their happiness is short-lived, for no sooner do they return to shore than they discover "a tall circular tent, a circus tent with red, yellow and blue stripes on its roof."

Because they don't have enough money for admission, Iris volunteers to participate in the circus's disappearing act; she is put into a wooden coffin and set on fire. When the smoke clears, she is gone, and by the next morning, the circus itself has vanished too, along with any trace that it was ever there.

Alex's quest to find his wife becomes the engine that drives this novel, which moves from Verre to Manhattan to an uncharted Atlantic island to the Deep South and finally back to Verre, an itinerary that, like the circus it hopes to track down, is circular, "defined by the ring."

Although he begins by going to the authorities, pretty soon Alex is on his own, making deductions from whatever incidental evidence he can uncover, evidence that mostly takes the form of anecdotes, things overheard or glimpsed from the corner of his eye.

A policeman encourages him to pay attention to his dreams; a waitress introduces him to a man who talks about the Great Volenti, on whose private island of Cea an army guards a hollowed-out mountain full of circus performers who worship the stage as if it were a god.

By themselves, these details are little more than hints, rumors, with no specific connection to Iris or her fate. But when Alex sneaks onto Cea and joins first the army and then the circus in the mountain, he starts to see the world in a new way, and to understand that his search, while ostensibly for the woman he loves, is really a pursuit of the essence of his being.

**OF COURSE**, quest novels can be difficult, since, for them to be important, we must believe in the importance of the object being

sought, as well as the characters and situations of the narrative itself.

But for the most part, Stevens gets the job done because of the straightforward way he tells what is, at times, a difficult story, in which meaning is always a step ahead of us, and the true nature of things is not revealed until the end.

One way he does this is by using a flat, affectless prose that reports what's going on simply and without reaction, registering little surprise at the most fantastic turns of plot; another is by anchoring his book in the living details of the world.

Thus, locations like New York and Mississippi are described to evoke their real identities, and the mystical island of Cea — with its strange, faceless army and its subterranean circus — also becomes an environment we can see, where the circus and its menagerie must be properly ventilated for the performers and animals to survive, and in Volenti's study hangs a framed, handwritten letter from Franklin Roosevelt, thanking him for his "contributions regarding troop movement" during World War II.

Equally important is Stevens' conception of the circus as a spiritual force, an almost religious discipline that demands of its adherents the devotion of true believers. Even the secret army of Cea is but a training ground for performers.

Among the most fascinating and unexpected aspects of *The Circus of the Earth and the Air* is Alex's transformation from teacher to tightrope walker, from a man who once fled the stage in absolute fear to an acrobat who, "carrying a plate of his favorite meal, macaroni... will cross to the center of the tightrope, make himself comfortable, and enjoy his dinner."

When it comes to describing the dynamics of a circus — the way performers interact with one another, and the dedication they bring to their skills — Stevens knows his stuff. He worked for years as a tiger groom with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, and he's clearly spent a lot of time considering what the whole thing means.

His ideas on the subject heighten the significance of Alex's experience, providing a context in which he can hunt for Iris both physically and spiritually, while at the same time coming to terms with himself.

Paradoxically, however, Stevens' philosophical discussions of "the ring" represent the one major area where the novel stumbles, veering from narrative into rhetoric, fiction into cant. It seems an overstatement to claim that "circuses are sanity, pure sanity... it is only after your eyes become a circus that you can see your life as it really is."

Instead, such passages read like justifications, as if Stevens were trying to make his point with too much force. More apropos, I think, is Volenti's sentiment: "Never trust a circus, never, never, never trust a circus! ... They'll tell you one thing and they'll do another. They take pride in their dirty lies... Never believe a word a circus tells you! ... To rely on a circus for anything is unforgivable, a mistake, a terrible unforgivable mistake. ..."

(Los Angeles Times)

The reviewer is book editor of the Los Angeles Reader and the author of *Cape Cod Blues* (Red Dust), a book of poems.

## QUITE POSSIBLY THE ONLY DICTIONARY YOU'LL NEED TO LEARN HEBREW

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### Obituary Notices

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Yuval Ravid has dropped the gimmickry, as in this romantic bridal gown, part of his new, cleaner-lined collection.

## More style, less flash

FLAIR  
GREER FAY CASHMAN

PREVIOUS attempts by Israeli designer Yuval Ravid to be trendy yet different were not always successful. Ravid's fertile imagination was sometimes so off the wall that elegance became the sacrificial lamb on the altar of gimmickry.

But not this time.

Ravid's current collection is stylish, clean-lined and flattering without being outrageous. His concession to gimmickry is not so much in his silhouettes as in his choice of fabrics.

Ravid has been judiciously careful in his use of rich laces and embroideries, allowing them to enhance in a refined rather than an opulent manner.

Creating for around-the-clock fashion needs, Ravid is at his best in his bridal and formal wear presentations which, though inspired by the 1930s, are reminiscent of romantic turn-of-the-century ballroom attire.

Ravid is not the only Israeli designer to give new emphasis to ball

gowns, which are a natural progression from the long-skirted, flounced and layered garments currently paraded as street wear. The collections of almost every local designer of note include at least two or three formal items; in some cases, formal wear constitutes a third of the collection.

Ravid has recently moved to three-story premises on Tel Aviv's prestigious Rehov Heh Yair, which is brimming with the labels of top-line international and local designers.

Based on this collection, Ravid will have no trouble holding his own among such company.

Prices range from NIS 350 to NIS 6,000. The lower prices apply mainly to tops and jeans. The price scale for bridal gowns is from NIS 3,800 to NIS 6,000. For a bride with a busy social calendar, the investment is worthwhile, as many of the gowns can easily be adapted for other occasions. An additional plus is that white is one of the dominant shades in the summer palette.

## OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA MEISELS

THERE'S a new kid on the block - Cola Kid. Its red-and-yellow label cannot help but remind many customers of a much more famous cola brand.

Joining the Tropit beverage line from Jafra-Tavori, the cheeky Cola Kid makes three boasts: "no caffeine, no preservatives, no phosphoric acid." Parents do not need to be told why caffeine is undesirable in a beverage for children, and many people today prefer to avoid preservatives wherever possible.

As for phosphoric acid, Cola Kid's promoters say this is the component of ordinary colas which will reportedly dissolve a tooth if you'd let it soak in a glassful.

A senior lecturer in dentistry, whose specialty is caries (cavities) tells me that the acid in a cola drink could indeed "demineralize" a tooth if it were soaked long enough.

But he told me he's not particularly worried about harm to the teeth from either the acid or the sugar in conventional colas because "the clearance time is too short" - that is, it doesn't remain long in the mouth. "Toffee is much worse," he said.

Contacted for comment, a spokeswoman for Coca-Cola disclosed that her firm is considering the manufacture in Israel of the caffeine-free version of Coke, long available in other countries.

She declined to relate to phosphoric acid, on the grounds that Coca-Cola is very zealous about the secrecy of its formula. She also would not comment on the similarity in color scheme between the labeling of Cola Kid and of Coke.

Cola Kid, in both the family-sized bottles and the aluminum cans, carries a photograph of a fair-haired boy, a design element clearly different from that of the world-famous brand. The price is another clue. A one-and-a-half liter bottle of caffeine-free Cola Kid costs NIS 3.92, which is higher than the price of ordinary Coke or Pepsi.

As for similarity in taste between Cola Kid and the famous brands, I tend to agree with Jafra-Tavori that most kids won't be able to tell the difference. Growups probably will.

THE AMERICAN Borden's dairy has its Elsie the Cow. Nuvva has Nili the Cow. The jaunty blue cow made her debut in time for Shavuot, the holiday associated with dairy foods. Nili adorns the cartons of long-life UHT (ultra high temperature) milk with 3 percent fat. Otherwise, the product remains unchanged, including its price of

NIS 3.62 per liter. The UHT milk in the sealed carton is meant to stay fresh unrefrigerated for three to four months, but requires refrigeration once opened.

Why Nili? Nuvva says this is the name of the country's all-time record milk giver, from Kibbutz Malkiya.

LOW-FAT fresh milk spiked with real fruit concentrate is available in cartons labeled Prio, from the Milk Man dairy. There are three flavors: strawberry, mango and tropical fruits.

Prio may be low-fat (1 percent), but it is not low-calorie. Its second largest component is sugar, and each 100 milliliters (quarter cupful) of Prio contains 65 calories. This means a full cup has 260 calories - compared to 164 calories in the same quantity of plain 1 percent milk.

A liter carton of Prio costs NIS 6.90, which seems rather steep.

ICE CREAM is an obvious dessert for the end of a Shavuot dairy meal. Snowcrest has just come out with a beautifully designed vanilla/chocolate ice-cream log, topped with chocolate and bits of sugared pecan. The box is a shiny gold brick made of sturdy cardboard.

Unfortunately, this first release in the new Snowcrest Gold line is disappointing to the taste. It's mainly just sweetness. At NIS 24.90 for 900 ml. (600 grams by weight), one deserves better.

BEN & JERRY'S, on the other hand, rarely disappoints. The latest B&J flavor, available both at its ice-cream parlors and in supermarket cartons, is Chocolate Fudge Brownie.

One of my resident chocoholics described it as "great! pure chocolate heaven!" There are two other flavors new in cartons, though they have been available at the parlors: Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough (with pieces of unbaked cookies in it) and Rainforest Crunch, containing caramel-coated Brazilian cashews.

Ben & Jerry's says it is creating jobs and saving trees in the rainforests by contracting for tons of the nuts each month.

Pint-sized cartons (about 400 grams) of these flavors are available at Super-Sol, Hypercol and Hagal Hayarok stores, for NIS 13.90, while plainer flavors are NIS 13.30. All have the Belz kosher certification.

You may have noticed the cartoon slogan in English: "We support 1 percent for peace." This has nothing to do with Israeli politics, but is a statement of moral support for an American demand that 1 percent of the US federal budget be earmarked for peace, rather than for defense or other uses.

WHITMAN, yet another ice-cream maker, is trying to scoop



(clockwise, from top) Ben and Jerry's newest flavor ice-cream is the sinful Chocolate Fudge Brownie, shown here with other flavors; Prio offers low-fat milk spiked with real fruit concentrate; Cola Kid lacks phosphoric acid; from Gad Dairies, the Sweet Moon rice pudding logo with the man in the moon.

out a younger and snappier image for itself.

Whitman this week launched a line of Italian-style ice cream in one-liter plastic boxes featuring the Colosseum. The product comes in three flavors: chocolate, vanilla, nougat cream, and cappuccino cream. The manufacturer recommends these for ice coffee and milk shakes, as well as eating plain or with cake.

The price is a modest NIS 10.95 per box. Labeling is Hebrew only.

Big Sandwich is another Whitman newcomer with an Italian look. The flavor is what Americans know as Neapolitan - chocolate, vanilla and strawberry - sandwiched between wafers.

For a truly snappy frozen experience, try Whitman's Pim Pam Pom dairy fruit-flavored popsicle - if you dare. It contains the so-called "exploding candies" which snap, crackle and pop in your mouth, thanks to CO<sub>2</sub> gas (the same stuff that turns water into seltzer). I tried one and found the sensation of candies popping in my mouth most unpleasant, but youngsters apparently like it. This frozen torture instrument costs NIS 1.50.

FELLOW FANS of A.A. Milne



will appreciate that the line "What is the matter with Mary Jane?" kept running through my head as I tasted various flavors of the Gad Dairies' milky rice pudding, called Yare'ah Matok (sweet moon). Mary Jane was the little girl in the poem entitled "Rice Pudding," who was crying with all her might and main/ And she won't eat her dinner - rice pudding again....

The local rice pudding's emblem is the man in the moon. The newest flavor is nougat (aut cream), which joins the slightly more veteran chocolate, strawber-



ras, raspberry, cherry and (my personal favorite) the plain vanilla-flavored one. The price is NIS 2.35 for 150 grams, and the milk itself contains 3 percent fat. The other ingredients are rice, sugar, eggs, stabilizers and flavoring agents, plus fruit where applicable.

# An ecological, economic automotive miracle - but unsuitable for Israel

MOTORIZING  
JOEL GORDIN

TO save energy, a cyclist stops pedaling when the bike needs no propulsion - when traveling downhill or when coasting to a stop. The cyclist also, obviously, does not pedal while standing still.

Volkswagen applied these principles in its efforts to try to solve the environmental problems of the automobile, and has proven that what holds for the velocipede can be applied to a car.

The world's fourth-largest vehicle manufacturer - which now incorporates Audi, Seat and Skoda - is producing in commercial quantities a spin-off of the Golf 1.89cc, 46 h.p. diesel passenger vehicle, calling it the Golf Ecomatic (the name is derived from "economic" and "automatic").

The fuel consumption figures are a stunning 21 km/l for the urban cycle and 20.4 km/l on average. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and noise are reduced.

The Ecomatic was demonstrat-

ed recently to Israeli journalists at Volkswagen's headquarters in Wolfsburg, near Berlin. It was not a theoretical lecture using a concept model - journalists were allowed to drive a car more than 200 km. through town and country.

VW engineers calculated that in heavy urban traffic the engine may be switched off for as much as 60 percent of the time.

Starting and driving the Ecomatic take the same movements as on any other car, although the five forward gears are engaged by an automatic clutch. However, when you remove your foot from the accelerator, the engine stops and the car coasts. Accelerate again, and the engine instantly reports back for duty.

The stopping and starting of the Ecomatic engine is carried out automatically, silently and unnoticeably.

In a normal car, were you to coast downhill with the ignition and engine off, the power steering, heating fan, brake lights, indicators and sometimes (depending on the make of car) the headlights, radio and speedom-

eter would be out of action.

VW has solved the problem by using a battery pack strong enough to work all these systems for at least nine hours without needing to be recharged.

In a standard car, every time the engine is started there is a strain on the battery and the voltage drops as the starter motor draws off the considerable power it needs.

During the starting process, as every motorist knows, the headlights dim. This flickering could be disastrous in a car with components that are dependant on a steady current: the trigger electronics for the airbag, for example.

During the brief starting process, the Ecomatic switches the on-board electricals from the main battery to a small, auxiliary battery. There is no extra wear and tear on the starter motor, because the Ecomatic system will not work while the engine is cold.

It also will not work when the car stops in reverse gear or while the driver leaves his hand on the gear lever, so as not to interfere with a parking maneuver.



The Golf Ecomatic shuts down the engine when it is not needed, both helping the driver save fuel and reducing the amount of pollutants the car releases into the environment.

For the same reason, the engine shuts down only after five seconds when the accelerator is released in first gear.

There is a range of control lights on the dashboard to keep

the driver informed of what the Ecomatic is doing. For example, there is one to show the engine will not be shut down because the coolant has not reached the required temperature.

Another flashing light indicates that the driver should change up or down in order to reduce fuel consumption - so not only does the Ecomatic shut down the engine whenever it's not needed, it

also helps the driver to save fuel and ease the burden on the environment while the engine is running.

At any stage the Ecomatic feature can be canceled at the press of a button, and the car becomes a "normal" Golf, but with an automatic clutch.

There are no fundamental differences in standard equipment and options between the Ecomatic and its fellow Golf. The Ecomatic has it all: airbags, power steering, electrically-controlled windows, etc.

The Ecomatic costs about NIS 5,100 more than the equivalent 1.9-liter diesel Golf.

VW claims to have sold about 3,000 models, mainly for use as a second car.

It is impressive to see to what lengths some of the great car companies are going to try and solve the environmental problems of the automobile.

But there must be a catch - and there is. The one accessory the Ecomatic cannot accommodate is a powerful air-conditioner, and thus the car will not be suitable for sale in Israel.

## BARGAIN BASEMENT

### OFFERS

LADIES' RANBAG - trills designed, new, matching waist belt. NIS 300. 02-699261.

COFFEE PERCOLATOR - Black & Decker, with clock, no need for paper filters. NIS 150. 04-843284.

ELECTRIC CREEP MAKER - Swiss, used only twice. NIS 120. travel books. "Let's Go Budget" for Italy, Spain. NIS 30 each. 02-286059.

BASTAFARIAN SWEATER - handmade in S.A., NIS 50 o.b.a.; manual typewriter in good condition. NIS 115. o.b.a. 09-56408.

NORDMENDEN VIDEO CAMERA - spectra C220 Model No. 0430 H. NIS 300. 02-699261.

FOLDING BED - medical/massage/cosmetician's bed, NIS 150; enormous suitcase (36") on wheels. NIS 100. 09-332949.

PHOTO LENS - Vivitar, 20 mm. 1:3.8, excellent condition. NIS 250. 04-899402.

FIXING TACKLE - odds and ends, 2 fiberglass rods, 2 boxes, lures, etc. NIS 150 for lot. 04-357719.

ISRAELI STAMP COLLECTOR - breaking 30-year collection; opportunity for filling in missing items. 02-3718404.

PINE WOOD COY - NIS 200; high chair/swing/low chair. NIS 100. 09-469191.

STEREO - needs repair, plus two loudspeakers in excellent condition. NIS 200 for lot. 03-6417111.

CEILING LIGHT FIXINGS - two, adjustable. NIS 75 each; floor standing lamp, chrome arch, 2.25 m. high and 2 m. wide, adjustable. NIS 100. 09-351759.

BABY CARRIAGE, HIGH CHAIR - excellent condition. NIS 200. 02-812882.

CHILD'S ORTHOPEDIC SANDALS - 1-1 1/2

years, hardly used. NIS 50. 02-355304.

TOASTER OVEN - new, big, can broil. NIS 300. 02-322894.

FM TUNER RECORD PLAYER - with stereo amplifier, speakers, radio OK on one channel, free to deserving cause. 02-524179.

NIS.

LADIES' DELICATE CHAIR - NIS 225; food server with ice-cube compartments. NIS 75. 02-285869.

RIDING BOOK - real leather, brown and black, plus helmet. NIS 200. 02-566153.

APPLE 2C COMPUTER - and program, like new. NIS 300. 02-340668.

GRAMMATEK 5 SOFTWARE - NIS 200; Canon "Snappy" 35 mm camera. NIS 100. 02-465362.

BICYCLE - '90, Mustang, perfect condition. BMX style, extras, plus helmet. NIS 250. 02-617041.

NIKON - 35mm F2 lens. AI indexing. NIS 300. 02-352835.

APPLE 3 - computer, disk drive, monitor, programs. good condition. NIS 300. 02-340668.

CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER - hand-held, new with guarantee. Panasonic. NIS 210. 02-519676.

SUNRISE BALANCE SYSTEM - Conco. Lifestream. Alpha 30, prime gain; 75 capsules in each bottle, all literature. NIS 250 for everything. 02-712191.

MINI-OVEN - excellent condition, times/temperature controls. NIS 300. 02-722158.

"POKEY AND BESS" - single ticket. June 13, NIS 143. 02-617313.

### WANTED

TABLE, CHAIRS - and other furniture, in

good condition, urgently needed for new clinic. Will pick up in Haifa area. No cash. 02-382219.

BABY BASSINET ON STAND - also crib, only excellent condition. 02-262574.

LIVING-ROOM SOFA - or sofa set, double bed, closet, children's bedroom set, good condition, not brown. 07-728992.

YAD SARAH'S LAUNDRY SERVICE - for the bedbound desperately needs nightwear, sheets, bedding and towels. Call Tirza. 02-388774. Yad Sarah, 33 Yirmiyahu Street, Ramat Hashikma.

FURNITURE - wanted by organization for new Russian clinic. will collect. 02-788277.

NIS.

RECORDINGS BY CANTOR GERSHON SHOTTA OF WARSAW - good quality, LPs or 78s. 02-420955.

"COUFFE DEVILLE" - movie with Alan Arkin. 02-355306.

BABY HIGH CHAIR - old records, video recorder. 02-860113.

CRIB AND HIGH CHAIR - American-style, good condition, reasonable. 02-611486.

LARGE DOG CRATE - suitable for sitting travel. Michael. 02-242032.

GARDENING TOOLS - with pedestal leg, 3rd floor. 02-416772.

SEKING SONGS BY APRIL WINE - rock group of early '80s. 02-611240.

BOOKS, MAGAZINES ON ZOOLOGY - and all nature subjects. English and German. 02-355306.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA JUDAICA - in good condition. 02-616207.

A FEW STEADY MEN - needed for daily milky, 6-15 a.m., at Hod Yerushalaim and 3rd floor. 02-416772.

SEEKING SONGS BY APRIL WINE - rock group of early '80s. 02-611240.

BOOKS, MAGAZINES ON ZOOLOGY - and all nature subjects. English and German. 02-355306.

TRANSFORMER - 500/750 watt, 110 to 220 v., reasonable. 02-634402.

OLD PICTURES - to buy. 02-823788.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS - or articles by or about Spanish and Latin American writers and artists. Write: David, POB 3961, Jerusalem. 02-620226.

NEED ADVICE - how to use Singer Handy Stitch portable sewer as advertised on TV. 02-644982.

QUEEN-SIZED BED - 02-461495.

TANDY COLOR COMPUTER 3 - software, hardware and accessories, to buy or trade. Jonathan. 02-253285.

FRINTER FOR APPLE IIc - for special ed. school. 02-515993.

OVAL DINING TABLE - with pedestal leg, 3rd floor. 02-416772.

SWATCH WATCHES - in mint condition; Chinese snuff bottles. 02-639551.

CHESS PARTNER/CLUB - for visiting Dad, almost professional level. Dad is also an artist. Any ideas? 02-423547.

FOLDING BED - baby cot. 02-631822.

### EXCHANGE

PHILATELIST - amateur, wants to exchange stamps with similar. 02-711644.

WOMAN WILLING TO GIVE ENGLISH - (or Hebrew) lessons to lady in exchange for lessons in spoken Arabic. 02-389260.

HELP ME IMPROVE MY HEBREW - in exchange for help in English. 02-733577.

### LOST & FOUND

LOST - wedding video cassette (small). Sony Hi-8, at Videomart. Please check if you got cassette back from Videomart. Be-ryta. 02-620994.

FOUND - in basement, dog/older puppy, tan color, medium size, very gentle, green collar, no tag. 02-346018.

LOST - dog on May 1 in French Hill area, off-white, long-haired, mixed breed. Reward. 02-815275.

### PETS

CAT LOVERS! - 3 million cats die in Israel each year. Help us help them. Call Lev Lechui Association. 02-631626.

FREE - beautiful, middle-aged dog, 2 years, home-trained, vaccinated, kid lover, good watchdog, mixed English setter. 02-985342.

MALE KITTEN - gorgeous, fluffy gray male, and blind female calico kitten, free to good homes. 02-283521.

SIX-WEEK-OLD KITTEN - loving, playful.

healthy, male, pure black, free to good home. 02-415865.

WHITE MIXED FINCHER - speckled black, 3 years, terribly sweet, for good home with garden. 02-424313.

FENGINGSE PUPPIES - pedigree, rare colors, for sale. 02-932610.

AMERICAN WHISKEY DOG - wonderful, gentle, pedigree, seeks warm and loving home, preferably with children and enclosed garden. 02-663217.

Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

**BARGAIN BASEMENT - FREE CLASSIFIEDS**

BARGAIN BASEMENT accepts ads of up to 20 words free of charge on these conditions: Only one ad per household per week. THE LIMIT per ad in the "offers" section is a TOTAL of NIS 250, and the price of each item must be stated in shekels. The following ads are NOT accepted: business offers; apartment sales; rentals or exchanges; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relations. Ads must be printed in English and submitted on the attached coupon. ADS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX. The right to reject or edit any ad is reserved.

Ads must reach The Bazaar Basement, The Jerusalem Post, Pehov Yirmiyahu in Ramat Hashikma (POB 81, 91 000 Jerusalem) by NOON Sunday of the week of publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.

The price of each item must be stated

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

THE BAZAAR  
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## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1994

9

## Central bank: 'Real' inflation was 9.75% in '93

JOSE ROSENFELD

INFLATION was 1.5 percentage points lower last year than reported, based on the new Central Bank of Statistics housing prices survey, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

According to the central bank's annual report that will be released at the end of this month, the old method used by the bureau up until this year to measure housing prices distorted the Consumer Price Index.

Due to the long reporting lag, the old method pushed up last year's index by 1.5%, while it underestimated inflation by two percentage points in 1992, based on the new method.

This means that inflation in 1992 was actually 11.6%, instead of 9.6%, and that last year's inflation dropped to 9.75%, rather than rising to 11.25%.

The report states that these corrected figures fit well with original expectations, as well as with the government's declared inflation goals for those years.

The price of housing rose 11.5% relative to other prices last year, and since 1988 it has jumped 49.2% above other prices.

Housing sales reached record levels last year, as did mortgages. The main cause for this growth was the massive entry of new immigrants into the housing market.

Housing prices shot up at the beginning of last year due to the dollar's rise at the end of 1992.

The dollar took off again from June to August, pushing housing prices further up.

However, the central bank contends that the prices did not stabilize, since supply failed to keep up with demand for housing.

The high levels of demand for housing were due to the entry of large numbers of immigrants, young couples and speculators into the market.

The increase in demand was also stimulated by lower interest rates and a bullish stock market, which increased the public's supply of available cash.

## Cellcom wins tender to provide second cellular phone service

Consortium of Bell-South, Safra Bros. and Discount Inv. to offer services at one-fifth the price of Motorola-Bezek's current rates

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Communications Ministry yesterday awarded the tender to provide cellular phone service in competition with Motorola-Bezek to a consortium of Bell-South in the US, the Safra Brothers and Discount Investments.

The company, called Cellcom, said it will charge only NIS 534 for a "basket of services" instead of the NIS 2,800 currently charged by Motorola-Bezek.

It will begin offering cellular phone service in the most populated areas in six months and cover the entire country in 15 months.

The cost of "air time" (the charge to the caller for each minute the cellular phone is in operation) will begin at only eight agorot during high-use hours to 14 agorot during the second year and 28 agorot after five years.

This compares to the 68 agorot per minute currently charged by Motorola-Bezek.

The consortium's cellular phone will use the new and quicker digital technology, rather than Motorola-Bezek's analog system.

The consortium was chosen because of its organizational, financial and professional ability. In addition, its prices for a basket of cellular phone services were the lowest given by the six groups competing in the tender.

The five losers were Aurel/Southwestern Bell/Clal and Itur; Telrad/Hapolim Investments/McCaw and Belzberg Investments; Tadiran/Elbit/Sprint/Canada Telecom; Dankner Investments/IBM Israel; Israel Corporation/Cellular Communications International/Vanguard/Idan/Elitech; and Eliezer Fishman/Haim Bar-On/Ampal/Fairchild/Qualcomm/SFR/Bear Stearns Investments.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, who announced the tender at a Jerusalem press conference, said she was proud that the tender committee chose it unanimously and months ahead of



Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, ministry director-general Shlomo Vax, Safra Bros. representative Yigal Arnon and Discount Investments director Dov Tamor (pictured from left to right) discuss the tender won by the Cellcom conglomerate yesterday.

schedule, only half a year after the tender was issued.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat congratulated Aloni and her staff for their determination to open cellular phone service to competition.

This move has already brought Motorola-Bezek's prices down by 50 percent, and competition is expected to reduce them even more.

The government will continue carrying out structural changes in the economy in the 1995 budget, Shohat promised.

The public tender for a second supplier of international dialing services will be completed very soon and cut prices in this service as well, he said.

Bezek spokesman Zecharia Mizrotsky welcomed his company's new competitor.

He said Bezek would soon contact the consortium to work out details, since it would become one of its biggest users of infrastructure.

"Seven years ago, when the first Ptelephones began operating, it was estimated that there would be only 7,000 subscribers by now, but there are now close to 100,000 subscribers," Mizrotsky said. "We expect there will be 250,000 cellular phones in operation in three years - plenty to keep busy two suppliers."

Mizrotsky said he did not know how Cellcom could offer a "basket

of services" (comprising installation and subscribers' fees plus air time) that is less than one-fifth the price currently charged by Bezek.

Meanwhile, the Tel Aviv District Court rejected the suit of Analyst Investments against Bezek and the state.

A year ago, the company demanded compensation for a rise in Bezek rates, arguing this violated the Fogel Formula accepted by the government as a means of setting rate increases.

Analyst asked to be recognized as a representative of other interests with the same complaint but lost the suit and was ordered to pay court fees.

Bezek said that if Analyst had

won the case, it would have ultimately cost Bezek hundreds of millions of shekels.

Galit Lipkis Beck adds:

Israel Aircraft Industries yesterday said it will exercise its option to purchase a 10 percent share of Salcom. Bell-South's operating company.

MLM System Engineering & Integration, a subsidiary of IAI, is a technical partner in the Bell-South group.

The company, which participated in the preparation of the tender proposal, said it intends to become an active partner in the system which will be set up.

## Court: FBI's interest calculation not faulty

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

FIRST International Bank's software package to calculate interest during the 1980s was not faulty, the Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday.

In the court-approved agreement, which was approved by all parties involved, the customers accepted the bank's interest calculations. The turnaround came after the customers realized the bank's interest calculation was actually to their advantage.

Last year the Tel Aviv District Court ruled that First International Bank's customers were overcharged interest from 1980 to 1987 due to a defective software package.

Judge Uri Strausman said First International did not calculate the prime interest and the authorized limit simultaneously.

As a result, customers were charged with compound interest.

The suit was submitted by the Shalev family from Ramle. Following the verdict, lawyers and journalists predicted the suit could pave the way for other First International customers during the period to sue the bank.

The turnaround in the legal claim came after the parties involved recalculated the interest in accordance with Strausman's verdict.

The new interest calculations revealed the bank had to debit the plaintiff's accounts by another NIS 4,000.

## Industrial exports rise 31% in April

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRIAL exports rose 31.4 percent to \$1.054 billion in April compared to the same period last year, the Industry and Trade Ministry reported yesterday.

The increase was due to a larger proportion of exports to Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

The ministry also attributed the magnitude of the increase to the fact that this year Pesach was celebrated in March, instead of April.

All industrial exports registered increases last month, except for food exports. Metal and electronics exports jumped 38%, while mining and mineral exports shot up 67%.

During the first third of the year, industrial exports grew 10.4% to \$4.471b. Diamond exports rose 14% to \$1.162b.

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, grew a more moderate 9.2% to \$3.308b. Exports rose in every sector except mining and minerals. Metal and electronics exports expanded 15%.

According to seasonally adjusted figures, industrial exports, excluding diamonds, rose 15.4% last month compared to March.

Most of the growth derived from the significant 17.1% increase in metal and electronics exports and the sharp 50% rise in textiles and clothing, and rubber and plastic exports.

## Elron announces fall in net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ELRON has announced a drop in first quarter net profits to \$2.2 million from \$4m. during the same period last year.

The company experienced a \$313,000 loss in revenues for the first quarter, compared with a gain of \$4.1m. last year.

Per share earnings were halved at \$0.12 from \$0.25, based on a weighted average number of 17,389,000 shares in both years.

This was due to the recording of 100 percent of Fibronics' loss, rather than reflecting Elron's 42% share. Elron had invested some \$2.5m. to finance Fibronics' debt over the past quarter.

Elbit contributed \$2.8m. to Elron's net profit, as compared with

\$5.1m. in the corresponding quarter last year.

A one-time non-operational income of \$9.4m. inflated the 1993 figure. Other incomes included \$2.8m. from the sale of 62,033 shares of NetManage and the transfer of an additional 25,000 shares to a securities trading account.

The company experienced a loss of some \$600,000 from its securities portfolio.

Tambour reported a 78% fall in first quarter net profits to NIS 2.4 million from NIS 11.5m.

Revenues fell slightly to NIS 89m. from NIS 98.3m. Gross margins fell to 36% from 39%.

M-Systems Flash Disk Pioneers reported a net loss of \$863,000 in the first quarter, compared with a net profit of \$1,000 in the same period last year.

Continued investment in research and development and marketing were given as the main reasons for the fall.

The company quadrupled those costs to \$417,000 from \$91,000. Revenues increased 28% to \$732,000 from \$568,000.

## Court: Kessar justified in denying Moscow-TA charter flights to Clal

EVELYN GORDON

TRANSPORT Minister Yisrael Kessar was justified in refusing to let Clal Aviation run charter flights from Tel Aviv to Moscow, since there is not enough traffic on this line to support competition, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

Clal, in conjunction with the Russian airline Aeroflot, had asked for permission to operate two flights a week on this line.

In response to Clal's petition, the state noted that by law, the

minister can refuse to issue a permit if it would cause the supply of seats to be too much higher than demand.

This is the case on the Tel Aviv-Moscow route, it said, which was traveled by only 79,252 passengers last year.

The minister is also allowed to refuse a permit if it might damage a regularly scheduled route, the response added, and the excess

competition would certainly damage the scheduled El Al flights.

The state rejected Clal's argument that in light of the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, a permit should only be denied if the extra competition would actually destroy the scheduled route.

Even if Clal were correct in theory, the response noted, the law stipulates that existing laws and regulations that contradict the Ba-

sic Law will nevertheless stay in force for the next two years.

The state also rejected Clal's charge that the decision is contrary to the government's own policy, adopted in February, of encouraging charters. The decision to encourage charters does not include an obligation to encourage them on every individual route.

Furthermore, Kessar did permit Clal and Aeroflot to operate charters between Moscow and Jerusalem, the response noted.

## Petition: Law on grey market laws not being obeyed

EVELYN GORDON

THE Tel Aviv Execution Office is refusing to obey recent legislation limiting interest on grey market

Traveling abroad? You can still play the market.



JOIN IDB TELEBANK. DIAL 03-519111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM. ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

loans, because it is too much trouble to reprogram its computer system, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged this week.

The petition was filed by Glopa Trade and Imports Ltd., a private lending company.

It deals with a loan made by the company sometime after the new law took effect in December, which the borrower did not repay on time.

In April, Glopa therefore asked the Execution Office to collect the debt.

However, the petition says, the Execution Office said it would only calculate the interest owed - which the law sets at a maximum of 2.25 times the rate published by the Bank of Israel - according to

the central bank rate on the day it opened the file.

This, claims Glopa, contradicts the law, which says the base rate should be the Bank of Israel rate, on the day the loan contract was signed.

The deputy head of the Tel Aviv office told Glopa it could not use the rate on the day the contract was signed, because its computer was not programmed to handle that calculation, the petition said.

"A technical computer problem is not a sufficient reason for failing to open Execution Office files in accordance with the law," the petition stated.

Glopa therefore asked the court to order the Execution Office to make the calculations, according to Glopa's understanding of the law.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Int'l conglomerates here plan to add operations in areas: International conglomerates with representatives here have decided to separate their operations in Israel from those in the autonomous areas. Jaf-Ora Tavari managing director Amnon Dik said yesterday.

Speaking at a conference on upcoming food market trends, Dik said the implementation of autonomy has persuaded food giants with importers or representatives here to look for additional ones in the autonomous areas.

RSL Medical buys know-how for anesthetic monitoring devices: RSL Medical 65 percent owned by RSL Electronics, has purchased know-how and rights for anesthetic monitoring devices to be used in operating room procedures. RSL also announced an agreement with Drager Germany, a specialist in the field of respiratory and anesthetic equipment. RSL expects to provide Drager with 200 units this year.

Mutual fund assets grow 3.6% in April: Mutual fund assets grew 3.6 percent last month to NIS 31.8 billion, despite mutual fund redemptions of NIS 70 million, Meitav reported.

Bank Leumi boosts interest on shekel deposits: Bank Leumi has announced it has raised the interest on its shekel deposits by 0.5 percent annually. The bank has increased the interest on its two-year, 10 short-term deposit to 10.5% annually. The interest on its weekly short-term investment deposit and Quality Plus short-term deposit was also increased to 10.5% annually.

Tana signs deal to establish factory in Russia: Tana, the kibbutz-owned manufacturer of home water, has signed a deal in partnership with IG. Taman Group's holding company, and Russian investors to establish a factory near Moscow at a total investment of \$20 million. Tana-T will manufacture home water purifiers based on Tana's know-how.

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (12.5.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.000	4.500	5.000	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.625	3.875	4.375	
French franc (FF 200,000)	4.125	4.000	4.000	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.875	2.875	2.875	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.625	0.750	0.875	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.5.94)				
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.2450	3.2910	2.94	3.06
German mark	2.8800	3.0413	2.94	3.06
Pound sterling	1.7888	1.8181	1.76	1.82
French franc	4.4328	4.5083	4.35	4.55
Japanese yen (100)	0.5230	0.5304	0.51	0.54
Dutch florin	2.8712	2.9117	2.81	2.85
Swedish krona	1.5969	1.6184	1.57	1.64
Swiss franc	2.0868	2.1263	2.06	2.15
Norwegian krone	0.3808	0.3923	0.38	0.40
Denmark krone	0.4134	0.4193	0.41	0.42
Finland mark	0.4580	0.4645	0.45	0.47
Canadian dollar	0.5513	0.5581	0.54	0.57
Australian dollar	2.1758	2.2366	2.13	2.23
S. African rand	2.1628	2.1931	2.09	2.20
Belgian franc (10)	0.8237	0.8353	0.81	0.82
Austrian schilling (10)	0.6703	0.6825	0.65	0.68
Italian lire (1000)	2.5471	2.5831	2.50	2.62
Jordanian dinar	1.8741	1.9006	1.83	1.93
Israeli pound	—	—	—	—
Irish punt	3.4581	3.5069	—	—
Spanish peseta (100)	4.3635	4.4281	4.26	4.52
	2.1741	2.2048	2.11	2.26

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

## STATE OF ISRAEL THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE - THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Bids are invited for the supply of special quality printers for IBM and IBM compatible personal computers. Tender 16/94 - Supply of special quality printers for personal computers (including ink jet printers, graphic printers, color printers, and portable printers, but not including matrix printers, line printers and laser printers). Last date for submitting bids: Tuesday, June 20, 1994 (1 p.m.).

The tender documents are available at the Tenders and Buying Department, the Accountant General's Office, Room 725 or 726, Min. of Finance Building, 1 Rehov Kaplan, Jerusalem.

Additional details from Tel. 02-317428, 02-317418.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.



Key Representative Rates	
US dollar ...NIS 3.0210	+0.30%
Sterling ...NIS 4.5045	-0.02%
Mark ...NIS 1.8040	-0.40%

## NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

### New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	2929.54	-26.77
DJ 30	1357.65	-10.07
DJ 100	1357.65	-10.07
NYSE Composite	2388.88	-18.35
NASDAQ	244.51	-2.40
NASDAQ Transp	149.90	-1.50
NASDAQ Tech	429.81	-3.68
S&P 500	441.48	-3.23
S&P 500 Ind	441.48	-3.23
AMEX	441.48	-3.23

### NYSE stocks

Share	Unchanged	Advances	Declines
movements	907	861	1556

### Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	2130.55	-5.8
Tokyo Nikkei	15012.1	-232.4
Singapore S&P	255.14	-3.04
Hong Kong Hang Seng	6055.15	-395.07

### Israeli stocks in NY

	Last	Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### NYSE / AMEX

	Last	Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### NYSE / AMEX

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	Last	Change
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### NYSE / AMEX

	Last	Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

## TEL AVIV STOCKS

### Multi-sided trading

Name	Price	% Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### Two-sided trading

Name	Price	% Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### Two-sided trading

Name	Price	% Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### Two-sided trading

Name	Price	% Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### Two-sided trading

Name	Price	% Change
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
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Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### Two-sided trading

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Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
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Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
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Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### Two-sided trading

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Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5
Am to Pcp	45.5	-0.5

### Two



# Bundesbank cuts leading interest rates sharply, dollar jumps

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - The German Bundesbank surprised financial markets yesterday with a sharper-than-expected cut in two leading interest rates, pushing up the US dollar on the currency exchanges.

The central bank said it was cutting its discount rate to 4.5 percent from 5% and its Lombard rate to 6% from 6.5% effective on Friday.

The reduction in the cost of credit reflected an improvement in the outlook for German inflation, the bank said. Inflation was running at 3.1% in April, down from 3.2% in March and Bundesbank officials have predicted it will be down below 3% soon.

After the Bundesbank rate cut, Italy announced it was cutting its

discount rate to 7% from 7.5% and its "fixed-term advances rate" to 8% from 8.5%.

Earlier yesterday the Bank of France cut its intervention rate to 5.5% from 5.6% and Denmark reduced its 14-day interest rates to 5.7% from 5.8%.

Markets had generally been expecting a cut in German rates this week, but the half-point reduction was higher than many players had predicted. Speculation had focused on a twin move by the United States and Germany, with a rate rise in the US and a cut from the Bundesbank.

That would help stabilize the dollar, which was supported last week in a massive round of central bank intervention led by the Bundesbank and the US Federal

Reserve.

After the Bundesbank announcement the dollar jumped around half a pfennig to 1.6765 marks, compared with 1.6705 late on Tuesday in Europe.

Economists said yesterday's move would help stimulate growth in the German economy, which is showing clear signs of recovery.

Gerhard Grebe, chief economist at Bank Julius Baer, said he was surprised by the extent of the cuts and believed the central bank had seized on the weakness of the dollar to accelerate the pace.

"The Bundesbank knows it is running a bit late in the cycle of interest-rate cuts and so it has speeded up the pace," he said.

"Today's cut was in line with the overall trend, but sooner and

deeper than expected," said Holger Fabrikus at Union Bank of Switzerland in Frankfurt, who had been predicting cuts of a quarter point around the end of the month.

The Bundesbank indicated that the rate cuts would help achieve a slowdown in worryingly high M3 money supply growth. M3 had risen at an annual rate of over 15% in March, well above its target for growth this year of a maximum 6%.

But the Bundesbank said the interest-rate move could help foster investment in long-term funds. This should help put a brake on money supply growth.

Meanwhile, The Bank of France made its seventh small interest rate cut in two-and-a-half

months yesterday, surprising many financial analysts with its timing but nonetheless confirming a well-established policy trend.

The central bank lowered its key intervention rate, which sets the floor for the market, to 5.50% from 5.60%. It left its less watched ceiling rate at 6.75%.

It was the seventh intervention rate cut of 0.10 percentage points since February 24, and the third in three weeks.

Economists said they saw yesterday's move as an extension of French policy of recent months, although some traders suggested it might be part of a concerted move to lower European rates, and jack up US rates, to prop up the sagging dollar.

## Bonds await US rate hike after Bundesbank cut

LONDON (Reuters) - Bond prices across much of Europe fell back yesterday after the Bundesbank's rate cuts with all eyes switching to the US Federal Reserve, analysts said.

There was intense speculation the Bundesbank's half-point cuts in its discount and Lombard rates, to 4.5% and 6.0% percent respectively, might be part of a coordinated move with the Fed.

The US central bank is widely expected to raise its 3.0% discount rate or its 3.75% federal funds target.

"There's a reasonably good chance (of a Fed move). It's possible today," said Kit Juckes at S.G. Warburg Securities.

The June Bund future on LIFFE was trading at 95.03 at 1215 GMT, down three basis points on the day. The June long gilt future was trading at 103-20/32, up 5/32 on the day but down from 103-24/32 just before the Bundesbank rate cut.

The June notional French government bond future on the Matif in Paris was trading at 119.92, up 22 basis points but down from 120.06 just before the Bundesbank's announcement.

Looking ahead, there is little agreement among analysts about the next move for European bond markets.

Warburg economist Juckes noted previous Bundesbank rate cuts have failed to trigger bond market rallies. "But I think there's a rea-

sonable chance they'll like this, if this is the first half of a coordinated move," he said.

David Brown, economist at Tokai Bank Europe in London, is more bullish. "This is very positive... People are going to radically revise their expectations for lower German rates," he said, adding the markets would "shift into a more positive gear." However, reaction in LIFFE Euromark future was muted.

The June contract was trading at 95.08 at 1230 GMT, up six basis points and implying a three-month offered rate in Germany of 4.92% by the end of next month. That compares with an actual rate of 5.06% at the same time.

John Hall, senior European economist at Swiss Bank Corp in London, thinks the Bundesbank's move could prove extremely positive for the short end of the European yield curve. In the two to three-year area.

Within the hard core of Europe, Brown at Tokai recommends overweighting Germany. "I don't see us retaking the old highs in Germany, with 10-year yields at 5.53%. But there's a very good chance of retesting six percent and moving down to 5%," he said. German 10-year yields were at 6.63% at 1300 GMT.

Hall at SBC tips all the short ends in Europe except Spain, because of the corruption scandal there. "Italy looks extremely good," he said.

## Sainsbury suffers fall in profit

LONDON (Reuters) - British supermarket giant J. Sainsbury Plc. yesterday showed a sharp fall in full year profits due to a £342 million writedown on property values.

J. Sainsbury said it made a pretax profit for the year to March 12 of £368.8m., down 50%. Like-for-like sales since mid-December have risen 0.5% by value on a year ago, excluding inflation.

The food retailer also said its margins are being maintained "despite continuing strong competition."

Sainsbury reported a near 10% rise in sales for the year to £11.2 billion, and operating profits before exceptional up £10.8m. at £795.8m.

"Current trading in our retail subsidiaries is in line with the encouraging trend of the past year," said the food retailer in a statement. The retailer also said it aims to open a further 60 stores by 1997.

Although large food supermarkets had mushroomed in recent years there was still scope for new openings.

Sainsbury said that since the introduction of its Essentials for Essentials low-price promotion in November it had seen a 20% jump in sales by volume in the featured product lines.

But it said price-cutting reduced gross margins and operating profits for the supermarkets only grew by 2.3% to £732.2m.

J. Sainsbury said it has embarked on a course of rationalization for central services and its supermarkets which it says promises to cut annual costs by some £65m. by March 1995.

J. Sainsbury warned of a writedown on property values in a trading statement last January.



Novice fisherman Leo Kennedy helps porters from a London auction house carry an 11 foot Maco shark which he caught in 1991. The shark achieved celebrity status when he sold it to Harrod's which displayed it in their food hall. The fish went for £1,000 yesterday and Kennedy hoped it could fetch up to \$1,000.

## GATT chief sees China entry possible this year

BEIJING (Reuters) - It is possible for China to realize its hope of rejoining GATT this year, as long as it meets the world trade body's concerns on the openness of its trading system, GATT's director-general said yesterday.

Peter Sutherland, addressing an economic seminar attended by dozens of foreign businessmen and senior Chinese officials, said China is entering the final stages of negotiations for its return to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

China hopes to rejoin this year, so it can be a founder member of the new World Trade Organization, due to be established early next year.

"It will be possible but difficult for China. Whether this happens or not depends on the willingness of the negotiating parties. China

must be more immediately responsive on transparency, national treatment, and other issues," he said.

A founding member of GATT, China withdrew after the Communists came to power in 1949. It applied to rejoin in 1986. Since then, GATT's working party on China has held 16 meetings, and Beijing has responded to thousands of questions from GATT members.

Sutherland said concerns of GATT members are transparency and uniform administration of China's trade regime, certainty on treatment of imports, including quotas, licenses and standards, and the role of state trading firms.

"Full transparency is the basis on which China's request for re-acceptance will be judged," he said. "Its trading partners regard it as

maintaining a two-track system - a foreign investment-driven export production in the special economic zones and open coastal cities, combined with a considerably more restricted trading environment in the rest of China," he said.

Sutherland said a protocol setting out the broad terms and conditions of China's re-entry is being discussed and must be ready by the summer if re-entry this year is to be achieved.

"The time scale is very limited. A great deal of work remains to be done. China must show flexibility and openness of its market," he said.

But a European diplomat attending the seminar doubted China would make it into GATT this year.

"There is not enough time. The

US is busy until the MFN [most favored nation] decision on June 3. Then Geneva closes down at the end of July and during August," he said.

President Bill Clinton must decide by June 3 whether or not to extend China's MFN status.

"Even with a protocol agreed by summer, there are so many detailed points to be hammered out," the diplomat said.

Among issues to be settled, he cited adequate protection of intellectual property, equality of foreign and Chinese firms, a proper legal setting for foreign investment, a freely floating currency, and an end to subsidies to state firms.

"China wants to be treated as a developing country. Is this valid, given the size of its economy?" he said.

## British industrial output has surprise setback

LONDON (Reuters) - British industrial output had a surprise setback in March, falling by 0.6 percent when economists had forecast a modest rise, official figures showed yesterday.

But despite the decline, which followed a 0.6% rise in February, economists said Britain's long-awaited economic recovery was still set to survive the imposition of extra taxes on consumers since

April.

"No one was expecting a large fall in the same way they did not anticipate a large rise in output during February - obviously the figures are very volatile on a month-on-month basis," said Darren Winder, economist at Warburg Securities.

However, there is growing concern that economic recovery could be slow and patchy, with growth too frail to make a big

dent in unemployment, currently at 9.7% of the workforce.

The Central Statistical Office said manufacturing output fell during February - obviously the figures are very volatile on a month-on-month basis," said Darren Winder, economist at Warburg Securities.

However, there is growing concern that economic recovery could be slow and patchy, with growth too frail to make a big

dent in unemployment, currently at 9.7% of the workforce.

The Central Statistical Office said manufacturing output fell during February - obviously the figures are very volatile on a month-on-month basis," said Darren Winder, economist at Warburg Securities.

However, there is growing concern that economic recovery could be slow and patchy, with growth too frail to make a big

Base lending rates stand at 5.25% but hopes of a further quick cut have been hit by recent inflation figures.

On Tuesday the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report warned that price pressures could take off and said Britain should act quickly on interest rates if they did.

## Funds switch to cash as US rates rise

LONDON (Reuters) - Private investors are turning away from international bond and equity funds, as US interest rates move higher, and global strategists have advised urgently raising cash holdings to counter the risk of big redemptions.

"A mutual-fund bloodbath is soon to hit the markets," Kleinwort Benson equity strategist Albert Edwards warned on Tuesday.

He said data from the Washington-based Investment Company Institute showed US net bond-fund sales in "serious difficulties," dropping to \$2 billion in March 1994 compared with \$12b. a year earlier, the biggest outflow since October 1987.

"March data confirm that the situation is becoming far worse than even we had envisaged," Edwards said.

US equity-fund sales were at \$12b. level with March 1993, but down from the \$18b. reached in January 1994.

Large-scale redemptions by private players would "leave global equity markets vulnerable to a major dislocation," Edwards said.

Kleinwort has reduced equity holdings in its funds and is advising an increase in cash from 7% to 10%.

Merrill Lynch's New York strategist Charles Clough said this week he had cut weightings in US stocks in an aggressive portfolio to 50% from 55%, raising cash to 20% from 15% and maintaining bonds at 30%.

S.G. Warburg, in a strategy paper in February, put the risk of US mutual-fund investors liquidating their overseas investments as second only to "financial meltdown" in Japan. It estimates some \$128b. flowed to US mutual funds in 1993.

Edwards warned that while bond-fund managers had sold ahead as retail redemptions began this year, equity-fund managers had ignored valuations and piled into rapidly appreciating markets abroad, soaking up liquidity.

"The equity managers are using cash from redemptions to buy dips in the market. The real problem is yet to come," he said.

Asked about the widely held belief that US investment is under-

going a structural change, with more interest than ever before abroad, Edwards said it is still true of institutions.

"But the retail guy is after capital gain. He bought an emerging-market fund in December and lost 10% on it by March. Suddenly 4% in the bank doesn't seem so bad."

Thousands of US private investors bought shares in bond, equity, and emerging-market funds in 1993, hoping for returns which would far outstrip low interest rates at home. The US Fed funds rate is 3.75%, up from 3% in February.

Edwards noted that US mutual-fund holdings had always been at the expense of cash.

"All it needs is for households to stop running down cash holdings and a black hole of liquidity emerges. That hole may or may not be filled by other buyers who may limit price declines. The risk is that other buyers do not emerge."

Sushil Wadhvani, global strategist at Goldman Sachs, agreed the retail investor could be a market risk. "The next source of signifi-

cant price-related selling could be the retail investor, who does not appear to be buying on dips," he said.

Recent market weakness had provoked memories of the 1987 stock-market crash. There were "common features" like high price-earnings ratios, another growth scare in the US and an important role for stop-loss selling, Wadhvani noted.

Banks, among other institutions, and hedge funds had stopped selling orders on many fund holdings earlier this year, exaggerating an initially small correction when US rates were first raised in February.

Wadhvani said retail buying continued in Britain and Italy, for different reasons, but there was little movement in Japan.

"If the markets stabilize soon, we would expect retail investors to pour more money in as interest rates are still low. However, there is some risk that any further market weakness now is amplified by mutual-fund redemptions."

## WORLD BRIEFS

Quarterly earnings down 1% at Royal Dutch/Shell: Quarterly earnings fell 1 percent at the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Cos. as low crude oil prices took their toll.

Royal Dutch/Shell said yesterday it earned £937 million for the three months ending March 31, down from £945m. in the same period a year earlier.

The Anglo-Dutch oil giant's revenues were off 3%, at £20.18 billion.

Like other oil producers, Royal Dutch/Shell suffered from a plunge in crude oil prices over the winter. The spot price for North Sea Brent Blend crude was 23% lower, at \$13.95 per barrel, during the last quarter.

That offset higher earnings that Royal Dutch/Shell reported in its manufacturing, marketing and marine operations. AP

Allianz profits up 28%: Allianz AG Holding, Germany's biggest insurer, reported a 28% rise in 1993 group net profit and tentatively predicted earnings would continue to improve in 1994. Group net profit rose to "at least" DM1.1 billion (\$658.0 million) from DM858 million in 1992 because of a tax rebate. Allianz said in a prospectus for a planned capital rise published in a German newspaper.

A company spokesman said the tax rebate resulted from the dissolution of so-called EK56 retained earnings - which had been subject to 56 percent corporation tax - to make a one-off payment to shareholders of DM253.5m. (\$151.6 million). Reuters

Royal Bank of Scotland Group issues upbeat report: Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc. posted record first half profits yesterday and the group made upbeat remarks about the rest of this year.

Group chief executive George Mathewson said he felt "pretty bullish" about the second half.

"Bad debts are coming down and we continue to improve," Mathewson told a news conference.

The bank reported profits of £201 million for the first six months of this year, up from £89m. in first half 1993. The interim dividend was increased 33% to 4.0 pence per share from 3.0 pence. Reuters

Tycoon sentenced for role in BCCI collapse: A Ugandan-Asian property tycoon was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison yesterday for his part in the saga of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).


Sentencing Nazmu Virani at the Old Bailey, London's Central Criminal Court, Judge Michael Hutchison told him his conduct had probably contributed to BCCI's activities continuing for longer and thus making creditor losses greater. Virani was found guilty of seven counts of providing false information which helped BCCI conceal the crisis in its finances from auditors and regulatory authorities. Reuters

Danish biotechnology group's profits fall: Danish biotechnology group Novo Nordisk A/S reported an 11% fall in first-quarter pre-tax profits yesterday, but said a previous forecast of profit growth for all of 1994 to exceed 11% still held.

The group is a world leader in industrial enzymes and one of the world's two biggest insulin producers. The 360 million crown (\$55 million) pre-tax group profit, compared with 405 million crowns (\$61.9 million) a year earlier, was below most share analysts' expectations, although the market had expected a lower result.

Novo attributed the drop to increased investment costs for new projects and losses on the Danish bond market. Reuters

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# Mac. TA regains hoops title with 3-0 sweep over Hapoel

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv won the National Basketball League title for the 34th time last night, smashing Hapoel Tel Aviv 80-69 at Yad Eliyahu in the third game of the finals to get the sweep.

In the semifinals, Maccabi also coked walked 3-0 over Hapoel Herzliya.

After the final buzzer 10,000 Maccabi fans drenched their heroes with champagne as they cut the nets — the traditional act of the league victors.

"The championship is like Lassie — it always comes home," read a sign carried by one of the Maccabi fans, referring to Maccabi regaining the crown after losing it last year to Hapoel Galil Elyon for the first time after 23 years in succession (the only other club besides Maccabi and Galil to have won the title is Hapoel Tel Aviv — which has achieved the feat five times).

Earlier in the season Maccabi also regained the State Cup. It was as if the yellow-shirts had taken a broom and simply swept away all opposition — in Israel, at least. The team's failure to reach the finals of the European Korac Cup, of course, raises the obvious sobering thought to worry the new champions in their moment of triumph — that their string of victories was to a large extent due to the seemingly low standard of the local game.

There certainly was not much to this game. Hapoel opened with benchwarmer Dror Pahlma, probably in the hope he would soak up the fouls. Maccabi took an early 6-0 lead which came from fast-breaks, while Hapoel's offense was more coordinated.

The visitors continued to play a calculating, patient attacking game but lacked the marksmen to clinch the baskets. Tomer Steinhauer and Ofer Fleisher were also

beaten on the rebounds by Spencer Dunkley and Wendel Alexis. When the subsequent Maccabi attack swung to the opposite side — the home team was generally on target.

Maccabi's big breakthrough came after 14 minutes when Hapoel's playmaker Nadav Markovic hurt his knee. He returned immediately to the court but Guy Goodes took advantage of his handicapped match-up to dribble inside and score three times in succession.

Now, Hapoel appeared to lose confidence and fighting spirit and Maccabi surged into a daunting 40-27 halftime lead. Most of the home team's scores still came from fast-breaks after Hapoel lost possession. Dunkley was the big scorer. The young Englishman has played better in the playoffs than at any other time during the season. After the break, Hapoel hardly made an attempt to make up the deficit.

Maccabi went 17 ahead and then the match turned into a see-saw affair. Towards the end, Maccabi relaxed enough to allow its opponents to cut the lead to 10 points, but always seemed to be in control.

When it became obvious that Hapoel was not going to catch up, Maccabi coach Muli Kazurin allowed his benchwarmers, Alon Ben-Zaken, Ayal Sayer and Dudi Adler to finish, alongside veteran Lavon Mercer.

For Maccabi, Dunkley scored 18 points (and had 8 rebounds), Doron Jamchee 15 and Wendel Alexis, Goodes and Nadav Heneffeld all had 9.

For Hapoel, David Thirkill shot for 21 points, Tomer Steinhauer 10 while Markovic and Arditti had 9 apiece.



REACHING FOR THE TOP — Maccabi's Spencer Dunkley goes for the lay-up. (Hanoch Guttmann)

## Utah, Indiana score wins in conference semifinals

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Karl Malone scored 25 points as Utah offset Denver's shot-blocking Dikembe Mutombo with sharp perimeter shooting and beat the Nuggets 100-91 in the opener of a Western Conference semifinal playoff series Tuesday night.

Malone, who was deadly from 15-18 feet, also had 10 rebounds and John Stockton added 17 points and 11 assists for the Jazz, who will play Game 2 of the best-of-7 series today.

In the other playoff game Tuesday night, Indiana won its 12th straight game, including four in a row in the playoffs, by beating Atlanta 96-85 in the opener of an Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The other semifinals were scheduled to continue last night, with New York holding a 1-0 lead over Chicago and Phoenix a 1-0 lead over Houston.

At Salt Lake City, Mutombo had 20 points and 10 rebounds to go along with four blocked shots, but Utah had too much for him to overcome. During the Nuggets' first-round victory over Seattle, he set an NBA playoff record with 31 blocks in five games.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf added

16 points and LaPhonso Ellis had 11 points and 11 rebounds for Denver, which is making its first playoff appearance since 1990.

Jeff Hornacek chipped in 15 points and Jay Humphries had 12 for the Jazz, who won four of five games over the Nuggets during the regular season.

Denver cut Utah's lead to 73-68 with 11:07 to play, but Malone scored six points during a 15-4 run as the Jazz built an 88-72 lead, its biggest, with 5:41 to play.

Pacers 96, Hawks 85. Reserve Antonio Davis scored 12 of his 15 points as visiting Indiana took charge in the third quarter. Dale Davis, like Antonio Davis a power forward, grabbed 15 rebounds and scored 14 points for the Pacers. Antonio Davis hit 7-of-9 shots and had six rebounds in 23 minutes.

"I can't say enough about both Davises," Indiana coach Larry Brown said. "We had to have some people come in off the bench and step up. These two kids have done it in every playoff game so far."

Game 2 of the best-of-7 series is today in Atlanta.

The top-seeded Hawks, who advanced to the second round for the first time since 1988 by beating Miami in five games, led 23-11 in the first period and 53-47 at halftime before Antonio Davis keyed a third-quarter surge by Indiana.

The Pacers, with Antonio Davis hitting all six of his shots, outscored Atlanta 32-19 and led 79-72 going into the fourth quarter.

"I think we just got tired in the third quarter," Atlanta center Jon Koncak said. "But they were tough inside, especially the Davis guys. They were 14-for-30 between them. That broke our backs."

Atlanta got within 85-83 on a follow shot by Danny Manning with 3:16 left, but Reggie Miller, who led five Pacers in double figures with 18 points, made four free throws and a 3-pointer to give Indiana a 94-85 lead and Workman added two free throws for the biggest lead and final margin with 1:06 left.

The 32 second-half points was a playoff low for the Hawks.

Manning led the Hawks with 21 points.

### NBA Playoff Glance Semifinals (Best of 7)

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
New York leads Chicago 1-0  
Tuesday's result:  
Indiana 96, Atlanta 85  
Indiana lead series 1-0  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
Phoenix leads Houston 1-0  
Tuesday's result:  
Utah 100, Denver 91  
Utah leads series 1-0

Yesterday's scheduled games:  
Chicago at New York  
Phoenix at Houston  
Today's games:  
Indiana at Atlanta  
Denver at Utah

## Border announces retirement

BRISBANE (AP) — A bitter Allan Border yesterday announced his retirement from Test cricket after a decade as Australian captain, and then denounced the Australian Cricket Board for putting pressure on him to make the decision.

Border, whose announcement had been expected for the past month, told the *Seven Network* news program that his Test career was over after more than 15 years.

He blamed the ACB for rushing him into the decision, which he had pondered for a month since returning from a tour of South Africa.

Border played a record 156 Tests, dating back to his debut in December, 1978.

He scored 11,174 runs during his international career at an average of 50.56, and took 156 catches. He captained Australia in 93 Tests, scoring 27 centuries and a further 63 half-centuries.

His reign was highlighted by two successful Ashes campaigns in England in 1989 and 1993 and Australia's victory in the 1987 World Cup.

Border, who has scored more runs and played more Tests than anyone else in history, departed with a broadside at the ACB, saying he was fed up with the ongoing comment surrounding his future.

ACB chief executive Graham Halbish and chairman Alan Crompton said on Tuesday that they could not name their 15-man team to tour Sri Lanka and Pakistan later this year because Border's intentions remained unknown.

Border said he had told chairman of selectors Laurie Sawle of his decision last week and had planned to make the announcement public at a press conference today.

The Australian touring team will not now be announced until next week and the Australians will have to find a replacement captain.

Vice-captain Mark Taylor, veteran batsman David Boon, Steve



RETIRED — Allan Border played a record 156 Tests during his long cricket career. (Reuters)

Waugh and Ian Healy are among those in contention.

"It's done with a heavy heart and it has taken me a lot of time to come to this decision — the most important decision of my life," Border said of his retirement.

Lara's hot streak ends. Young Middlesex bowler Richard Johnson needed only one ball to achieve what men of greater experience have tried and dimly failed to do in the past month: He stopped Brian Lara's prolific run feast.

For the first time in five innings Lara failed to reach three figures. The 19-year-old Johnson bowled the West Indian batsman for 34 with his first to the world record-holder in a second round match Tuesday in the Bank and Hedges Cup.

Despite Lara's relative failure, West Indies scrambled to a three-wicket win over Middlesex, reaching the target of 151 with 10 balls to spare. Lara sparked a stylish run chase with seven boundaries in his 47-ball innings but was out when he inside-edged defensive push on to his wicket.

## O'Neill barrage gives Yanks 5th straight win

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul O'Neill homered twice and doubled Tuesday night, raising his batting average to .471 and giving the New York Yankees their fifth straight victory, 5-3 over the Cleveland Indians.

O'Neill leads the majors in hitting and on-base percentage (.578), and the Yankees lead the majors with a 21-10 mark. Not since July 1987 have they had the best record in baseball this late in a season.

Albert Belle doubled twice and singled for the Indians, who lost for the seventh time in eight games. At 14-15, they are under .500 for the first time this season.

Brewers 9, Red Sox 5. Two wild pitches by Greg Harris sent home the tying and go-ahead runs in a six-run seventh inning that carried Milwaukee to its fifth straight win at Fenway Park.

In the seventh, Harris (1-3) allowed Alex Diaz' single to make it 5-4, and Dave Nilsson then struck out swinging at a pitch in the dirt that got past catcher Damon Berryhill. Spiers scored on the play. Two pitches later, Harris fired the ball past Berryhill again, allowing Wade to race home.

Jaime Navarro (2-3) got the victory for Milwaukee, going six innings and allowing eight hits. He struck out a career-high eight.

Orioles 6, Blue Jays 3. Mike Quist pitched five innings of hitless relief for his first major league victory as the Orioles rallied.

Cal Ripken Jr. homered and drove in two runs for the Orioles, who have won 10 of 13. Chris Hoiles and Leo Gomez also had two RBIs apiece. Quist (1-0) allowed two walks, hit

two batters and struck out five in his seventh major-league appearance. Lee Smith worked the ninth for his 15th save.

Juan Guzman (3-4) allowed eight hits and four walks in five innings. He has a 6.75 ERA and his four losses are one more than he had last year, when he was 14-3.

White Sox 16, Mariners 2. Robin Ventura, Joey Cora and Frank Thomas homered and seldom-used Scott Sanderson pitched seven strong innings for the host White Sox.

Cora drove in four runs for the Sox, who had 18 hits in their highest-scoring game of the season. Sanderson (3-0), the No. 5 man in Chicago's rotation, was making his first start since April 27. Roger Salkeld (1-1) took the loss.

Tigers 18, Athletics 2. Mickey Tettleton hit a three-run homer in a five-run first inning and Kirk Gibson and Lou Whitaker also homered as the host Tigers sent Oakland to its 18th loss in 20 games.

Oakland starter Todd Van Poppel (0-4) was forced from the game in the second inning after a liner off the bat of Tony Phillips struck him on the left leg.

Bill Gullickson (2-1) allowed five hits in Detroit's third complete game this season. He struck out three and walked one.

Twins 7, Royals 4. Shane Mack's three-run homer helped rookie Carlos Pulido record his first major league victory as visiting Minnesota won its fourth straight.

Pulido (0-4), a 22-year-old lefty from Venezuela, pitched eight innings, allowing five hits and three walks. He struck out four.

Mack, who has hit safely in all seven games since he was activated May 3, hit his second homer of the season in a four-run fifth off Tom Gordon (2-2).

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Braves 9, Phillies 8

The host Braves overcame an 8-1 deficit with seven runs in the ninth inning, then won when pitcher Mike Stanton busted over the head of third baseman Tom Quinlan to drive home the winning run in the 15th.

Stanton (11-0), Atlanta's seventh pitcher, went 3-for-2 and allowed three hits in four scoreless innings, a career high.

With two outs in the 15th, Deion Sanders doubled off Andy Carter (0-1). Dave Gallagher was intentionally walked and Sanders stole third. Stanton then popped a bunt over Quinlan's head, making him 6-for-10 at the plate in his career.

Mets 3, Expos 2

Joe Orsulak homered off John Wetteland (1-2) in the 10th inning and went 4-for-5 as visiting New York rallied.

New York tied the score in the ninth against Wetteland, who blew a save for the fourth time in five chances. David Segui singled, pinch-hitter Jeff McKnight walked and John Cangelosi singled off the first-base bag for his fourth hit of the game, tying a career high.

Doug Linton (4-0) pitched two innings as the Mets won their fourth straight. Montreal has lost four of five.

Rockies 4, Giants 2

Greg Harris (2-1) allowed three hits over 8½ innings and Howard Johnson homered, boosting visiting Colorado to victory.

Johnson, who was out of the starting lineup the previous two games because of a hitting slump, hit a two-out solo homer off John Burkett (3-3) in the first inning.

Cardinals 7, Cubs 6

The host Cardinals blew a 6-0 lead, then won on Ray Lankford's 11th-inning home run off Jose Bautista (0-3).

Todd Zeile added a three-run homer in the first for the Cardinals. Rene Arocha (2-3), the starter and loser Monday after allowing three runs and eight hits in two-plus innings, pitched a scoreless 11th.

Rey Sanchez's run-scoring single off Willie Smith in the eighth tied the score 6-6.

Martins 1, Pirates 0. Chris Hammond (3-3) allowed two hits in eight innings, and Jeremy Hernandez pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save. The combined two-hitter was a franchise best for the host Marlins.

Randy Tomlin (0-3) gave up eight hits and three walks but just one run in 4½ innings. He is winless since August 5.

Martias Carrillo, replacing injured right fielder Gary Sheffield, drove in Florida's run in the fourth with a one-out single.

Reds 5, Padres 0. Kevin Mitchell hit his 199th career homer and Brian Dorsett also connected to back Jose Rijo.

Rijo (2-2), winning for the first time in four starts, retired 16 straight batters until Brad Ausmus singled to deep shortstop with two out in the seventh.

The right-hander allowed five hits over seven innings, struck out four and walked one.

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:  
New York 5, Cleveland 3  
Detroit 10, Oakland 2  
Milwaukee 9, Boston 5  
Minnesota 7, Kansas City 4  
Baltimore 6, Toronto 3  
Chicago 16, Seattle 2  
California 5, Texas 5 (suspended)

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:  
Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 8  
New York 3, Montreal 2  
Colorado 4, San Francisco 2  
St. Louis 7, Chicago 6  
Florida 1, Pittsburgh 0  
Cincinnati 5, San Diego 0

## Canucks down Stars 4-2, advance to Western finals

VANCOUVER (AP) — The Vancouver Canucks moved into the Western Conference semifinals of the playoffs while the San Jose Sharks closed in on the other berth.

The Canucks wrapped up their conference semifinal series in five games with a 4-2 victory Tuesday night over the Dallas Stars.

They earned a spot in the conference finals against the winner of the San Jose-Toronto series which will continue with Game 6 today following the Sharks' 5-2 victory Tuesday night. The Sharks led the best-of-7 series 3-2.

The playoffs were scheduled to resume yesterday with New Jersey visiting Boston in an Eastern Conference semifinal game. The Devils used one victory to close out that series and advance to the Eastern Conference finals against the New York Rangers.

The Rangers advanced with a 4-1 series victory over Washington.

Canucks 4, Stars 2. Pavel Bure scored two goals as the Canucks won for the seventh time in eight games.

Vancouver returned to the conference final for the first time since 1982 when the Canucks eliminated Chicago in five games.

Nathan LaFayette and Bure scored in the first period, Murray Craven in the second and Bure again in the third

as the Canucks outscored Dallas 18-11 in the series.

Mike Modano and Dave Gagner, both on power plays, were the only Dallas players to beat Vancouver goaltender Kirk McLean.

Andy Moog played the last four games in the series in goal for Dallas. Vancouver outshot the Stars 33-30 in Game 5.

Sharks 5, Maple Leafs 2. Sergei Makarov's two goals and two assists led the Sharks over the Maple Leafs.

Linemate Igor Larionov added three assists for the surprising Sharks, who returned to Toronto with two chances to finish out the series when it resumes today. The Sharks had the worst record of the 16 teams that made the playoffs.

Makarov, who with Larionov and Johan Garpenlov make up the Sharks' top-scoring line, hadn't scored a goal in the series. But the trio was dominating during the first period and accounted for the Sharks' first four goals.

Sharks goalie Arturs Irbe, rebounding from a disastrous Game 5 outing, faced 29 shots, stopping 27. He stopped all eight shots in the third period to preserve San Jose's 5-2 lead.

### NHL Playoff Glance Semifinals (Best of 7)

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
Rangers win series 4-1  
New Jersey leads Boston 3-2  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
Tuesday's results:  
Vancouver 4, Dallas 2  
Vancouver wins series 4-1  
San Jose 5, Toronto 2  
San Jose leads 3-2

Yesterday's scheduled game:  
New Jersey at Boston  
Today's game:  
San Jose at Toronto

## Hot weather subdues play in Eisenberg tennis tourney

ORI LEWIS

YESTERDAY'S hot weather helped slow down the proceedings at the \$50,000 Eisenberg Jerusalem Open tennis tournament, after a full schedule of matches on Tuesday, when the first round was completed.

Only three second-round singles matches were played in the heavy heat of yesterday afternoon and the results were all straightforward affairs.

American Michael Joyce beat Mikael Stadling of Sweden 6-4, 6-1; qualifier Dick Norman of Belgium upset Australian Joshua Eagle 6-4, 6-3 and Davide Sanguinetti of Italy put down Swedish veteran Thomas Hogstedt 6-3, 6-1.

Today sees another interesting round of second-round encounters with top-seeded Gilad Bloom looking to take another step towards his third straight Eisenberg crown and his fifth in all in Jerusalem.

Bloom faces another veteran campaigner, Patrick Baur of Germany in the second match on the stadium court, as he vies for a place in the quarter-finals.

Eyal Erlich, the only other Israeli left in the tournament, will try to go one better than Davis Cup teammate Eyal Ran when he takes on Joao Cunha-Silva of Portugal in the first match on the stadium court beginning at 2 p.m.

Three other matches will complete the last-16 lineup: Martin Blackman (US) vs. Aron Thomas (Germany); Thomas Colvitz (Germany) vs. Filip DeWulf (Belgium) and Peter Trumusch (Australia) vs. second-seeded Kevin Ullyett (South Africa).

## Fans plead guilty in rocket attack

CARDIFF, WALES (AP) — Two soccer fans who launched a powerful

marine distress rocket and killed an elderly man in the crowd at a

Wales-Romania World Cup game, pleaded guilty to manslaughter

yesterday.

The judge at Cardiff Crown Court postponed sentence on Kerry

Still, 35, and Andrew McAllister, 31, to a future date. Both are

from Wrexham, Wales. They admitted the manslaughter

of retired postman John Hill, 67, who died after he was struck in the chest by the rocket as he sat in the stands with his son.

The prosecution said when the case opened yesterday that Still and McAllister carried out "the

ultimate act of football hooliganism" by launching the rocket

across the packed stadium.

The court heard that the projectile was deliberately fired horizontally

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# Court remands Uzi Meshulam for 15 days

RAINE MARCUS

RABBI Uzi Meshulam, arrested when he fell into a police trap Monday night, was remanded for 15 days by Petah Tikva Magistrates Court yesterday.

He is suspected of 16 different crimes, including attempted murder, shooting in an inhabited area, rebellion and possession of weapons. An espionage charge relates to Meshulam mentioning the name and address of the head of the GSS on the radio.

Scores of Meshulam's followers came to the court to show their support for their "spiritual father" who was arrested when he arrived at a meeting arranged with Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz at the Avia Hotel.

His supporters sang and clapped but police prevented any contact between them. Streets surrounding the court were blocked off by police for several hours, and onlookers were forbidden from entering the courthouse area.

Meshulam, heavily guarded, and accompanied by around 250 policemen, claimed he had been beaten by police following his arrest.

In remanding him, Judge Eliezer Cohen said that there was a definite danger that if released, Meshulam would commit the same crimes.

"In a democratic country there are legitimate means to bring to public attention queries on different affairs," said Cohen, referring to Meshulam's demands for a parliamentary inquiry commission into the disappearance of Yemenite children in the 1950s.

The siege in Yehud was staged,



Uzi Meshulam is accompanied by police into Petah Tikva Magistrates Court yesterday.

# Meshulam supporters blast police for tricking their leader

RAINE MARCUS

ONLY a handful of people remained yesterday at the house in Yehud's Bialik Street where Uzi Meshulam and around 100 armed followers holed up during the past two months.

Those remaining were red-eyed from lack of sleep following the two-day police raid in which 19-year-old Shlomo Assoulin was killed by a sharpshooter.

Meshulam's wife Elisheva said she was unhappy with the trick played on her by police to capture her husband.

Visitors to the house claimed that police had violated their agreement by calling Meshulam to the Avia Hotel under false pretenses and then arresting him.

"The rabbi went to the hotel in good faith to genuinely reach an agreement to end the siege," said one man, who gave his name as Ariel. "The police knew if they isolated our leader, there could be a bloodbath here. Meshulam wanted to finish the whole business." "Leave us in peace," said another man. "We have just returned from burying our friend who was killed by police."

Ariel said that Meshulam, calling from the police station, played a leading part in reaching an agreement with remaining supporters early yesterday.

"Police would not let him talk to us beforehand," he said.

Other visitors to the house, still

fenced off by oil drums and sandbags, angrily accused authorities of trying to cover up the disappearance of several thousand Yemenite children.

"We know that this police raid was a conspiracy against us," said one woman. "We have documents proving that leading figures were instrumental in concealing the sale of children. The GSS has a special unit, formed to keep the whole affair of these children quiet. But the truth will come out one day."

Meshulam still has dozens of other supporters, said the woman. Police left documents pertaining to the children's disappearance in the house, she said.

Yossi, a resident of Bialik Street, said he was pleased the siege had ended but insisted that the occupants of the besieged house had not unduly disturbed him.

"It's a shame that someone was killed, but he was to blame for taking the law into his own hands," he said. "The police had to act and they exercised restraint. Meshulam and his supporters made a lot of noise, broadcasting and praying on loudspeakers."

Following nearly two months of constant movement and the endless stream of vehicles, Yehud looked like a ghost town in the late afternoon hours yesterday. "What a relief. Now I'm going to sleep and to unwind from the past couple of months," said one resident.

## Knesset panel debates reviving Expedited Building Permits Law

LIAT COLLINS

KNESSET interior committee chairman Yehoshua Matza did not bother to hide his dissatisfaction with the "pressure from the Prime Minister's Office and the Housing and Construction Ministry," which yesterday led to hours of legal discussion on whether the Expedited Building Permits (Emergency Measures) Law could be revived two weeks after it expired.

"I expressed my dissatisfaction. But I couldn't do anything but agree to holding a new in-depth discussion [next week]," Matza told Israel Radio. "I answered the prime minister's call to revive a completely dead law because the government's legal advisers told me I was obliged to. It might be true, but there is nothing like it in Knesset history."

The emergency measures cut some of the red tape in the planning process by skipping the need for environmental impact reports

and other environmental demands and reducing the period necessary to register opposition. It was originally passed for two years in 1990 to cope with the need to build homes during the wave of immigration.

But two weeks ago Matza refused to extend the law for another six months, claiming it was used for "economic speculation."

At yesterday's meeting, he said the law does not answer the needs that it was established to meet. Work has begun on only 10 percent of the 1 million homes presented for approval under the emergency law, Matza noted.

Scores of lawyers, legal advisers, and ministry officials attended the lengthy meeting. Assistant State Attorney Shlomo Gorman supported the measures and demanded they be quickly brought for Knesset endorsement. Representatives of the Israel Bar Association, the Israel Union for Environmental Defense, and other green groups claimed that a law that has expired cannot be revived without recommending the entire legislative process.

The Prime Minister's Office and Housing Ministry maintain the emergency measures are essential to build homes for new immigrants.

A spokeswoman for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel said after the meeting that the group "views the decision to revive the law with great concern. It seems to stem from [the government's] obsession to show it's doing something, without considering the price that will be paid by those same residents, who will live in neighborhoods with no sewage infrastructure, and the rest of the country, which will suffer from the consequent pollution and environmental blight."

It was responding to a petition by Deri in which he asked that Yehoshua Resnick, the head of the Justice Ministry's Criminal Division, either be tried or subjected to disciplinary action for an interview he gave to *Ma'ariv*, in which he reportedly said the evidence against Deri constituted "a sure basis for conviction." Deri charged that this was an effort to influence the upcoming trial by convincing the public the case is "in the bag."

In its response, the state said that in light of Deri's continuous media attacks on the State

## State: Deri's High Court petition shows 'bad faith'

EVELYN GORDON

FORMER interior minister Aryeh Deri's demand that the lead prosecutor in the criminal case against him be tried for attempting to influence the outcome of a *sub judice* proceeding was made in bad faith, and should be rejected out of hand, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

It was responding to a petition by Deri in which he asked that Yehoshua Resnick, the head of the Justice Ministry's Criminal Division, either be tried or subjected to disciplinary action for an interview he gave to *Ma'ariv*, in which he reportedly said the evidence against Deri constituted "a sure basis for conviction." Deri charged that this was an effort to influence the upcoming trial by convincing the public the case is "in the bag."

In its response, the state said that in light of Deri's continuous media attacks on the State

Attorney's Office, such a petition was the height of gall.

"This petition is in extremely bad faith," wrote Na'ava Ben-Or of the State Attorney's Office. "Its obvious purpose is to bother the prosecutor and occupy his time, to undermine his trustworthiness before the trial has even begun, and to create a feeling among the public that the petitioner is undergoing a criminal trial [whose results] have been dictated by a pre-trial in the press."

Ben-Or said that because of Deri's repeated statements that there is no real evidence against him, the Justice Ministry felt it was "very important to clarify the prosecution's stand [i.e. its confidence in the

case] to the general public," and therefore authorized Resnick to grant the interview. Not responding to such charges, she said, would have been even more damaging to the State Attorney's Office's good name.

However, she added, Resnick's statement could not possibly be considered an attempt to influence the outcome of the trial, since any sensible person would know that the indictment would never have been filed if the state didn't think it had a strong case.

"[Resnick's] words ... reflect the opinion of any prosecutor who does his work properly and examines the evidence in his hands before he signs the indictment," she wrote.

The interview was also not a disciplinary offense, Ben-Or added, since Resnick obtained permission for it from the proper authorities.

## Kach administrative detainees seek 'ideological rehabilitation'

EVELYN GORDON

SIX Kach administrative detainees asked the High Court of Justice to order the state to put them in an "ideological rehabilitation" program, claiming that if this were not done, they were almost certain to be arrested again after their release.

"In light of the government's treatment of those who disagree with it, [the petitioners] demand to undergo a reeducation, ideological rehabilitation program, at one of the United Kibbutz Movement kibbutzim or at a place such as Beit Berl [a Labor Party think tank and educational institute], before the end of their administrative detention," Noam Federman, Baruch Marzel, Benzion Gopstein, Ayal Noked, Shmuel Ben-Ya'acov and Michael Ben-Horin wrote in their petition.

"If they don't undergo such re-

habilitation, they won't know how to behave under this government's regime outside the prison walls, and they are likely to find themselves behind bars again for expressing opinions which the government finds unpleasant," the petition continued. "In every totalitarian regime, the government tries to reeducate those who disagree with it, and there is no reason the government of this country should not do the same."

Furthermore, the petition noted, rehabilitation programs — which are open to most ordinary convicted criminals — are generally more comfortable than standard prisons. Since the petitioners have not even been charged with any crime, there is no reason they should be deprived of the advantages of such a program, the petition said.

## Spot check of TA kindergarten reveals health hazards

Toddlers at a private kindergarten and day-care center at 18 Rehov Margolin in Tel Aviv are fortunate if they don't bring home an infection along with their drawings.

Municipal health inspectors making a spot check there as part of the Health Ministry's "Healthy Environment '94" campaign found serious violations of sanitary rules. The ministry asked the municipality either to enforce the regulations or to shut the facility down.

There is only one toilet and sink for 24 children, and these are not suited to their height. They all share only three potties, which are stored piled one on top of the other, which are merely washed without a brush in the same sink the children use to wash their hands and faces.

In the kitchen, inspectors found that cleaning materials were stored along with pesticides and powder for mixing juice. There was no separation in the refrigerator between meat and foods.

## Tel Aviv man charged with murdering his partner

A TEL AVIV man has been charged with the murder of his former business partner.

According to the indictment presented in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, Yosef Reich, 48, and Michael Markowitz, 43, of New York, were partners in a gasoline business. In 1989, Reich asked his brother-in-law to hire him a hit man to murder Markowitz in exchange for a considerable fee.

Reich's brother-in-law, Steven Stieglitz, hired Johnny Atlas, the head of a New York gang involved in murder, drugs, and extortion, whose members were mostly Israelis.

Atlas then gave the hit to gang member Yisrael Mizrahi, the two agreeing to murder Markowitz so they could then use Reich to try to get into the protection racket involving gasoline businesses.

Markowitz allegedly knew about their plan and opposed it, while Reich supported the idea.

Atlas and Mizrahi allegedly set an ambush for Markowitz at Reich's house, where Markowitz was to play cards on May 2, 1989. They signaled him to stop his car, then Mizrahi pumped three bullets into his chest. Markowitz died on the way to the hospital.

Reich faces charges of premeditated murder and conspiracy. Today, the prosecution's request to have him held until the completion of legal proceedings. (Itim)

## Moroccan dancers to kick off Israel Festival

HELEN KAYE

THE Israel Festival opens Monday night with an appearance by the Moroccan mystic dancers Trance Art at David's Tower in Jerusalem.

This is the first appearance here by a performing arts group from an Arab nation "and is an expression of the changes occurring in the region," Mayor Ehud Olmert said at the pre-Festival press conference in Jerusalem yesterday.

Also present were Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, IBA chairman Micha Yonin, festival board chairman Dani Halperin, general manager Michal Lewensohn.

Lewensohn expressed his satisfaction that this year's events appeal to the widest possible audience "from the popular to the super-artistic. We have also made a real effort to include regional and Arab culture."

He noted that, for the first time, Arabic superstities would accompany the Hebrew ones for the opera *Turandot*.

Mitzna noted with satisfaction the inclusion of Haifa as a festival

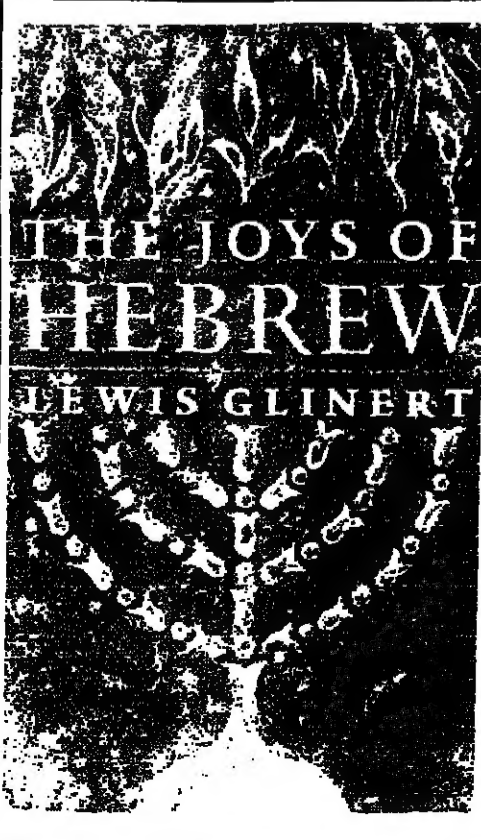
venue, saying that cultural cooperation between the country's major cities is useful.

The 175,000 tickets on sale are 20 percent more than last year, and Halperin announced that 100,000 have already been sold.

Public response to some events has been so great that extra performances have been added. The most popular events include *Turandot*, the multimedia *Laterna Magica*, the clown show *El Tricicle*, and the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane dance company.

Responding to complaints at the low level of Israeli representation, Halperin said that "the festival's main task is to bring great world culture to Israel. Israel Festival productions should be those that cannot be produced within the regular performing arts framework."

Within a total budget of NIS 9.2 million, the Jerusalem Municipality has contributed NIS 750,000 and is providing an NIS 1 million safety net under which it will buy unsold tickets and sell them at a discount to deserving groups.



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